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(54) Title: METHODS FOR MODULATING METABOLIC PATHWAYS OF MICRO-ORGANISMS AND MICRO-ORGANISMS OBTAINABLE BY SAID METHODS

(57) Abstract

The invention provides methods for changing the metabolic pathways of micro-organisms in the presence of a certain carbon source and uses of such changes, as well as micro-organisms and uses of such changes, as well as micro-organisms produced by these methods. In a preferred embodiment the invention provides new yeast strains with improved biomass yields, a process to obtain these yeasts and the potential application of these yeasts are provided. The biomass yield is improved by the introduction into a yeast of a DNA construct conferring altered expression of a gene encoding a protein controlling transcription of a number of glucose-repressed genes. The yeasts are less sensitive to glucose repression, resulting in an increase in respiratory capacity, reduction of ethanol production and increased conversion of sugar into biomass.

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METHODS FOR MODULATING METABOLIC PATHWAYS OF MICRO-ORGANISMS AND MICRO-ORGANISMS OBTAINABLE BY SAID METHODS

The present invention relates to the field of biotechnology, in particular to the field of culturing micro-organisms, -in particular yeast.

- 5 Culturing of micro-organisms is a relatively old technique which is well established and well understood by persons skilled in this art. It usually involves bringing a micro-organism of interest into a culture medium wherein it can survive, grow and divide. The culture medium usually
10 comprises all the necessary nutrients for the micro-organism to be able to do this.

- Micro-organisms are cultured for many different purposes. These include the production of biomass, the production of
15 antibiotics, the production of useful proteins expressed by micro-organisms (be it naturally or through genetic engineering), the production of micro-organisms useful themselves (for instance in brewing or baking bread, leavening of dough, etc.) Because of its relatively long
20 history and its many uses the techniques for culturing micro-organisms have been very well optimised, so that further gains in yield or growth rate of the micro-organism to be cultured are difficult to achieve. However, because of the cost of culturing micro-organisms and the large amounts
25 needed, such improvements (however small percentage-wise) remain very desirable.

- One of the problems of culturing micro-organisms is that they often show preference for certain carbon sources, which
30 carbon sources do not result in the best yields and/or growth rates of the micro-organism. Often the availability of such a preferred carbon source will lead to repression of the

metabolism of other available carbon sources (which other carbon sources often do result in higher yields). For instance, *S. cerevisiae*, as many other micro-organisms, shows marked preferences for certain sources of carbon, nitrogen and energy. One such preference concerns the use of glucose above other fermentable and non-fermentable carbon compounds (see 1,2). This behaviour causes diauxic growth of this yeast when cultured on mixtures of carbon sources that include glucose. Yeast cells growing on glucose display high growth rates, presumably related to the ease with which intermediates can be derived from the catabolism of this sugar. Glucose has radical consequences for the enzyme complement and metabolic patterns in the yeast cell (Fig. 1). During growth on this sugar, enzymes required for metabolism of other carbon sources are either absent or strongly reduced in amount as a result of active degradation of mRNAs or proteins (catabolite inactivation), repressed synthesis of mRNAs (catabolite repression), or both. Such enzymes include permeases and key enzymes involved in the utilization of various sugars, enzymes of gluconeogenesis and the glyoxylate cycle. In addition, synthesis of components of the mitochondrial respiratory chain is repressed, resulting in a low respiratory capacity. Glucose-repressed cells, or cells pulsed briefly with excess glucose produce ethanol by decarboxylation of cytosolic pyruvate and subsequent action of alcohol dehydrogenase. This series of reactions, known as the Crabtree-effect, regenerates cytosolic NAD^+ required for glycolysis. Although the basis of the Crabtree response is largely unknown (3), the occurrence of these reactions during large scale production of *S. cerevisiae* is undesirable because it reduces cell yield.

Suppression of ethanol production by yeast cells growing on glucose is currently achieved by limitation of the supply rate of the sugar. This procedure is only partially successful in that incomplete mixing can trigger a short-term Crabtree response. Additionally it suffers from the drawback that cells are forced to grow below their maximum capacity.

These or similar problems occur in many micro-organisms, particularly in eukaryotes, more in particular in yeasts. The present invention provides a general mechanism by which such problems may be solved in that it provides a method for

5 producing a micro-organism of which a metabolic pathway has been modulated, for instance a micro-organism of which the sugar/glucose metabolism has been shifted from aerobic fermentation towards oxidation, comprising providing said micro-organism with the capability of inhibition or

10 circumvention of the repression of the oxidative metabolism of glucose induced by the availability for the micro-organism of said carbon source. Surprisingly we have found that by simply interfering at a single (well-chosen) spot in the complex regulatory mechanisms of metabolic routes in (in

15 particular) eukaryotic micro-organisms, it is possible to redirect said metabolic routes from one mechanism (fermentation) to another (oxidation). Because of the complexity of the regulatory systems surrounding metabolism it is generally believed that interference at a single point

20 would be unlikely to be of any significance (because of all kinds of positive and negative homeostatic mechanisms which would restore the original situation) or would be deleterious if not disastrous (if it were capable of disrupting the feedback-mechanisms). We have found that a simple

25 modification, in particular at the level of transcription activation does lead to the desired switch in metabolic mechanism, without disrupting the metabolism of the micro-organism.

30 In particular, the invention solves this problem when the preferred carbon source of the micro-organism is glucose, which is the case for many micro-organisms, in particular yeasts. One of the most important yeasts in industry is (of course) *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. For that reason we have

35 chosen this micro-organism as a model for explaining our invention. Because of its importance it is of course also a highly preferred embodiment of the present invention. Other

well known industrial yeast strains such as Hansenula, Kluyveromyces and other strains are of course also within the scope of the present invention.

5 It will be understood that the result of the preference for glucose leads the metabolism down the aerobic fermentative pathway in many cases, as will be explained below. It will also be clear that for yield in biomass and/or production of useful proteins, etc. the oxidative/gluconeogenesis pathway
10 is to be preferred. This pathway is often part of the metabolism that is repressed when glucose is available and which is used when other carbon sources are available. Thus an important aspect of the present invention is to provide a method according whereby the repressed metabolism is restored
15 to a significant extent by activation of the pathways for metabolism for the non-preferred carbon sources.

It is preferred that said activation is achieved by providing the micro-organism with at least one transcriptional
20 activator for at least one gene encoding an enzyme in said pathways.

A very suitable and preferred way of achieving said activation is one whereby the transcriptional activator is
25 provided by introduction into the micro-organism of a recombinant nucleic acid encoding said activator. Said recombinant nucleic acid is preferably an expression vector. Such a vector may be an autonomously replicating vector, but it is preferred to use vectors that integrate in the host
30 genome. However, it may also be achieved by other means, such as mutation (site directed).

There are two ways of having the transcriptional activator expressed. In one embodiment of the invention the
35 transcriptional activator is constitutively expressed by said micro-organism. In an alternative embodiment the transcriptional activator can be expressed by the micro-

organism upon induction, for instance by the presence of glucose. The person skilled in the art will be able to determine which one is to be used for different circumstances and desired end results. In many instances it will be preferred that the vector used to introduce the activator is capable of integration into the genome of the host. In other embodiments a self-replicating vector may be used.

A very efficient way of achieving the derepression of the metabolic pathways other than those active in the presence of glucose is one whereby the transcriptional activator provided is a Hap4 protein or a functional equivalent, derivative or fragment thereof. A functional equivalent or derivative or fragment is defined as a molecule still having the same activity in transactivating the relevant genes from the relevant pathways (in kind, but not necessarily amount). Apart from being useful for biomass production and other uses of the micro-organisms themselves, another important use includes the production of recombinant proteins, homologous or heterologous. Thus the invention also provides methods for producing micro-organisms according to the invention, which micro-organisms further comprise a nucleic acid encoding such a protein of interest. Many proteins of interest have been disclosed and have been produced in yeast or other micro-organisms. They do not need to be reiterated here.

The micro-organisms produced by the methods according to the invention are also part of the invention. They are improved in many aspects, when compared with the organisms they are derived from, for instance they can have improved biomass yield upon culturing; they may show increased glucose oxidation; they may display increased oxidative sugar metabolism and/or reduced aerobic fermentation. Normally, under anaerobic culturing conditions the micro-organisms according to the invention will behave essentially the same as the corresponding micro-organism not provided with the modulation of this metabolic pathways.

The process to obtain the improved micro-organisms, in particular improved yeast has applications in all industrial processes in which optimal conversion of sugar into biomass is required. Use of these improved yeasts will lead to reduction of costs because of reduced process times and increased amounts of biomass per consumed glucose. This invention is well applicable in, for example, the (aerobic) production process of yeast for bakeries, or as source of flavour-enhancing yeast extracts. Furthermore this invention will lead to increased production of metabolites and heterologous gene products, such enzymes, precursors for chemicals, biosurfactants and fatty acids for application in pharmaceutical, agricultural or food sectors.

Concerning the application in baker's yeast or brewer's yeast, it should be noted that the reduction of alcohol formation in the production phase does not negatively affect growth or alcohol production during anaerobic fermentation, which is crucial for leavening of the dough or for the brewing process. This invention reduces alcohol production only when the yeast can make use of its enhanced respiratory capacity, i.e. under aerobic conditions.

The invention may also be applied with respect to manipulation of glucose repression or even glucose inactivation of processes not directly related to respiratory function of yeast. The uptake and metabolism of carbon sources other than glucose, such as galactose, sucrose or maltose is repressed by glucose. Yeast fermentation in lean dough depends on maltose as main substrate, which is produced in the dough from starch by action of amylases present in the flour. The flour contains in addition variable amounts of other sugars amongst which glucose. Maltose permease, responsible for the translocation of maltose across the plasma membrane and maltase, the maltose metabolising enzyme, are both subject to glucose repression and inactivation (4).

Since this negatively affects CO₂ production and thereby leavening activity, tools to reduce the glucose effect on maltose uptake and utilisation would be useful. Therefore it is noteworthy this invention will even improve leavening activity of said yeast strains.

Detailed description

As stated before, a very important micro-organism is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. We will explain in detail how its reaction to the presence of glucose may be changed, as exemplary for other micro-organisms. In the presence of glucose *Saccharomyces* shows a "Crabtree" response and switches to ethanol production through aerobic fermentation.

The present invention in one embodiment offers a solution to such problems by the construction of production strains of micro-organisms in particular yeasts, more specifically *S. cerevisiae* in which the Crabtree-effect is reduced or absent. The principle of the approach is the controlled de-regulation of glucose-repressible genes by overexpression of a specific transcriptional activator from a promoter insensitive to glucose control. The resultant shift in balance from fermentative to oxidative metabolism leads to increased growth rates and reduced ethanol production.

Glucose control of metabolism in *S. cerevisiae*

The extensive changes in enzyme complement during a shift from oxidative/gluconeogenic to fermentative growth are, in the vast majority of cases, the result of induction or repression of transcription of the corresponding genes in response to glucose. Genes whose expression is repressed by this sugar can be divided into three groups:

1. Genes required for the uptake and metabolism of other carbon sources, such as galactose, sucrose, maltose, glycerol, lactate and ethanol.
2. Genes unique to gluconeogenesis and the glyoxylate cycle.

3. Genes coding for Krebs cycle enzymes and components of the respiratory chain.

Although each group displays distinct features of regulation, a number of common transcription factors and mechanisms are involved and these form the main glucose repression/depression pathway (MGRP; 2). As shown in Fig. 3, key events in this pathway are the activation or inhibition of a number of key transcription factors in response to a signal generated by glucose. The nature of this signal is unknown. Its main effect is, however, to inhibit or counteract the action of the Snf1/Snf4 complex, a protein serine/threonine kinase, which is thought to alleviate transcriptional repression and promote transcriptional activation at glucose-regulated promoters (5). Although as yet, there is no evidence that Snf1/Snf4 directly phosphorylates a transcriptional regulator, genetic studies suggest that important direct or indirect targets for Snf1/Snf4 are the transcription factor Mig1, Ssn6/Tup1 and Hap2/3/4. Mig1 is a zinc-finger protein which acts as a transcriptional repressor at many glucose-repressible genes (6) Ssn6/Tup1 acts as a repressor of transcription at a large number of genes, probably in combination with gene- or family-specific transcription factors (7). The Hap2/3/4 complex is, in contrast, an activator of transcription. It is required for induction of transcription by non-fermentable carbon sources of a limited number of genes encoding proteins involved mainly in mitochondrial electron transport, Krebs cycle, haem biosynthesis and gluconeogenesis (8, 9, 10, 11, 12). Transcriptional regulation by the Hap2/3/4 complex is the main mechanism for coordinating the derepression of these enzymes in response to changes in carbon status of the medium (11, 13). The activity of the Hap complex is controlled by the availability of the activator subunit Hap4, whose synthesis is approximately 5-fold repressed by glucose (13).

Transcription and transcriptional control in yeast

A typical yeast promoter consists of several cis-acting elements that function as target sites for regulatory proteins (Figure 2). The position of transcription initiation by the RNA polymerase II complex is located at the initiation site (I). The TATA-box (T) has been shown to be essential in many promoters for transcription initiation to occur. It is the target site for the basal RNA polymerase II transcription factor TFIID, which nucleates the assembly of the other basal transcription factors and RNA polymerase II into a stable preinitiation complex. In addition to these basal control elements, at least one upstream activation site (UAS) is required for transcription. UAS elements function as DNA-binding sites for transcriptional regulatory proteins, that are thought to interact with the basal transcriptional machinery to mediate specific regulation. In many instances, yeast promoters consist of several TATA- and UAS-elements, which together determine the rate of transcription of the adjoining gene. In addition, yeast promoters may contain operators or upstream repressor sites (URS) and upstream induction sites (UIS). By binding of specific proteins these elements contribute to the overall transcriptional regulation.

Carbon source-dependent transcriptional regulation by the Hap2/3/4 complex

Carbon source dependent transcription of genes encoding a number of components of the mitochondrial respiratory chain and enzymes of gluconeogenesis is regulated by the Hap2/3/4 complex. Hap2 and Hap3 were first identified as proteins capable of binding to the UAS2 region of the gene encoding iso-1-cytochrome c in *S. cerevisiae* (14). This region, responsible for carbon source response, contains a sequence motif closely resembling the CCAAT box element found in many other eukaryotic promoters. The two proteins bind to DNA in an interdependent manner. Hap4 appears not to contact DNA directly, but is necessary for DNA binding of the other two

proteins. Sequence analysis reveals a C-terminally located, highly acidic region whose presence is necessary for activity. Replacement of this region by the activation domain of the yeast Gal4 protein restores activity, suggesting that it provides the principal activation domain of the DNA-bound Hap2/Hap3 complex (13). Transcription of the genes for Hap2 and Hap3 in *S. cerevisiae* is not substantially affected by carbon source, but expression of the gene for Hap4 is glucose repressible (13). This suggests that Hap4 is the key component of the complex in terms of its ability to regulate transcriptional activity in response to carbon source.

Insight into the structure of the Hap2 and Hap3 proteins has been obtained by the isolation and sequencing of the corresponding genes. The HAP2 gene encodes a 265 residue protein, of which an evolutionarily-conserved 65 amino acid core in the highly basic C-terminal region is necessary and sufficient for both complex formation and binding to DNA (Fig. 4). The HAP3 gene encodes a 144 residue protein, which contains a 90 amino acid core (B-domain) required for complex formation and DNA-binding (Fig. 5). The HAP4 gene encodes a 554 residue protein containing two highly acidic regions in its C-terminal domain (13; Fig. 6). Both of these appear to be necessary for transcriptional activation.

Genes corresponding to HAP2 and HAP3 have been isolated from a wide range of organisms (15). The encoded proteins form a heteromeric complex called NF-Y, CBF or CP, which activates transcription by binding to the evolutionarily conserved CCAAT box element. Hap2- and Hap3-homologous subunits make similar contacts with DNA. For the human CP1 complex, it has been shown that the Hap2 and Hap3 homologues are exchangeable in vitro with those of yeast (16). However, although the human CP1 complex consists of more than two subunits, none of these appear to correspond to the *S. cerevisiae* Hap4 protein. The Hap homologous complexes are not specifically involved in induction of genes under certain growth conditions, but

function as general transcription factors required for basal level expression of a large number of genes.

As the Hap complex (in the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*) is
5 involved in the regulation of many metabolic processes, it is
to be expected that modification of its expression has a
profound effect on the cell's physiology. With regard to
anabolic processes, to date not much is known about its role
but with regard to the catabolic network (that is, the energy
10 conserving machinery) in *S. cerevisiae*, synthesis of
components of the respiratory chain (hence mitochondrial) is
to a significant extent under control of the Hap2/3/4
complex. It seems justified to conclude that Hap-dependent
regulation is at least involved in the physiological
15 phenomenon known as the Crabtree effect. Its direct
physiological impact is a catabolic shift from respiratory to
fermentative catabolism whenever elevated levels of glucose
are present. This results in a significant decrease in the
efficiency of energy conserved: only 2 moles of ATP are
20 synthesized per glucose fermented to ethanol and carbon
dioxide, whereas the number of moles of ATP (equivalents) per
glucose oxidized (to carbon dioxide) is manifold higher (the
exact number still being a matter of debate). An important
indirect effect is a decrease in anabolic capacity: it is
25 known that the maximal obtainable growth rate of *S.*
cerevisiae is highest under conditions that allow
respiration. As a consequence, whenever conditions are such
that the catabolic flux into respiration is increased, the
yield value (Y_{glucose} , defined as the amount of cells obtained
30 per glucose consumed) will be considerably higher and the
organisms will grow faster. In other words, under such
conditions the partitioning of the total carbon flux over the
catabolic and the anabolic flux will be directed towards the
latter. Thus, a larger part of the carbon source is directed
35 towards biomass formation and a given biomass concentration
is achieved in a reduced time span. Due to the said
regulation (Crabtree effect), fully respiratory catabolism

can only occur under aerobic conditions with continuously very low glucose availability, a condition not often met in practical settings.

- 5 According to the invention, the inhibition or circumvention of glucose-regulated partitioning of the catabolic fluxes should result both in increased Y_{glucose} values and higher growth rates. Here, it is important to note that it can be foreseen that a relatively small increase in the respiratory
10 flux may result in a significant gain in biomass yield due to the large difference in the energetic efficiency between respiration and fermentation. All anabolic processes will be enhanced and since anabolism comprises protein synthesis it is to be expected that said increase is beneficial not just
15 to biomass production per se only but also to the production of specific proteins.

- Modification of the expression of glucose repressed genes can be achieved by interference in other factors of the glucose
20 repression signalling cascade besides Hap4. All mutations in upstream regulators of the cascade (see Figure 3), like Snf1 or Hxk2, do alleviate glucose repression of SUC2, GAL, MAL and respiratory genes, but these mutants display a wide range of phenotypic defects (1, 17, 18) and are not suitable for
25 industrial application of yeast. De-repression of SUC, MAL and GAL genes can also be accomplished by removal of the general glucose repressor Mig1, which results in partial alleviation of glucose control of maltose metabolism in a laboratory strain (19) This does however not affect glucose
30 repression of respiratory genes, and no change in fermentative-oxidative metabolism, growth rate or cell mass yield.

- We have now found that yeast, transformed with a construct
35 that overexpresses the HAP4 gene, becomes insensitive to glucose repression of transcription of a number of genes, amongst which genes encoding respiratory components. This

results in increased respiratory capacity of this yeast strain and reduced ethanol production. This altered aerobic sugar metabolism leads to a drastic increase in biomass yield and a significantly increased growth rate.

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The present invention provides a transformed yeast with an reduced aerobic fermentation rate of glucose which comprises the introduction into yeast of a DNA construct which contains an homologous gene encoding a protein de-regulating glucose repression of a number of genes in the said yeast.

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The homologous gene in this invention, *HAP4* is cloned into a circular vector DNA construct which is transformed into yeast by a procedure described in the following section. The vector contains DNA sequences that enables replication in both *E. coli* and yeast, sequences that enable cloning of DNA fragments into the vector, a yeast marker gene and a bacterial marker gene that enables selective maintenance in yeast or *E. coli* respectively. After transformation of the vector into yeast, it will be self-replicating and be maintained as long as selective pressure against plasmid loss is sustained. During non-selective propagation (i.e. growth in the presence of leucine in this particular case), the plasmid will be lost. From a practical point of view, it is preferable to grow yeast non-selectively. This will entail alteration of expression of *HAP4* by integration of the altered gene in the yeast chromosome. By "altered" is meant the exchange of the natural promoter by another promoter which is constitutively active, or by integration of a DNA construct consisting of such a promoter fused to the *HAP4* gene on a different locus on the chromosome, e.g. the *SIT2* locus (20). Integration of homologous yeast sequences is a well described and efficient technique (21) and can be easily applied to (industrial) yeast strains. The yeasts thus obtained are stable transformants and the altered *HAP4* gene can be maintained in the genome without selective pressure.

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Yeast with a chromosomally altered HAP4 gene can be constructed in such a way that the transformants are completely devoid of prokaryotic DNA, in contrast to the transformants also described in this invention which contain
5 a plasmid harbouring prokaryotic DNA sequences. By integration of only homologous DNA, originating from *Saccharomyces*, one can improve the yeast without introducing any heterologous DNA.

10 The present invention comprises induction of changes in glucose metabolism by overexpression of a key transcriptional regulator of oxidative metabolism of yeast by introducing in the yeast a DNA construct expressing HAP4 under control of the ADH1 promoter, whose activity is enhanced approximately
15 ten-fold by glucose. The elevated expression level has alternatively been achieved by using other strong promoters, which are constitutively expressed, independently of the presence of glucose. This is of particular importance for application in fed-batch cultures, where the glucose
20 concentration is kept low in order to minimise the Crabtree-effect. Several promoters belonging to genes encoding enzymes of the glycolytic cycle, like glyceraldehyde-phosphate dehydrogenase (GPD) or genes involved in ribosomal
25 expression, such as promoters for the transcription of elongation factors (EF) are well characterised and widely used for overexpression of yeast genes. These promoters have been isolated from *S. cerevisiae* and cloned in expression
30 vectors for yeast (22). The coding region of the isolated HAP4 gene was cloned behind these promoters, after which the promoter-HAP4 fusions were recloned in such a construct that the HAP4 gene with altered regulation of expression could be
35 integrated into the yeast genome. This procedure leads to stable transformants which exhibit all the advantages described above due to more oxidative growth and which in addition do not contain any prokaryotic DNA sequences.

The yeast strains described in this invention comprise both laboratory strains and industrial production yeast strains. The overexpression of Hap4 was first achieved in a laboratory strain by means of introduction of a self-replicating plasmid harbouring the HAP4 gene under control of the ADH1 promoter. 5 The metabolic behaviour of this engineered strain was tested in detail as described below, showing a significant increase in oxidative metabolism when grown on glucose. Industrial production strains were transformed with the same plasmid, 10 which was slightly modified by introduction of a dominant marker thereby enabling selection of transformants containing the plasmid overproducing Hap4. The response of the industrial strains to Hap4 overexpression was similar to that of the laboratory strain, i.e. glucose repression of 15 respiratory function is alleviated and therefore glucose metabolism has shifted from fermentative towards oxidative metabolism. To obtain stable yeast strains with all the advantages described above, genomic integration of constitutively expressed Hap4 was carried out, as described 20 in detail in the following sections.

Experimental

Saccharomyces cerevisiae strain DL1 has been transformed with YCplac111::ADH1 (without any gene placed behind the ADH 25 promoter) or YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4 (expression of HAP4 under control of ADH1 promoter). Transformation of the yeast strain with YCplac111::ADH1, the so-called "empty" plasmid is necessary to prevent any differences in physiology of the Hap4 overproducer and the wild type due to differences in e.g. 30 the plasmid encoded LEU2 marker gene. The nomenclature of the transformed yeast strains is as follows: DL1 denotes strain D11 transformed with YCplac111::ADH1, whereas DL1HAP denotes DL1 transformed with YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4. The expression level of HAP4 mRNA in these strains is depicted in Fig 9. 35 Expression of HAP4 in D11 is strongly repressed by glucose. Introduction of the plasmid with HAP4 under control of the ADH1 promoter leads to an increased expression level of HAP4

in DL1HAP which is grown on media containing 2% glucose. This level is comparable to the expression level of HAP4 in wildtype DL1 cells when grown on non-fermentable carbon-sources, which do not repress transcription of HAP4 and genes encoding respiratory components.

To study the effect of HAP4 overexpression on transcriptional control of respiratory function, we first studied the mRNA levels of different genes encoding components of the respiratory chain. As shown in Figure 9, the elevated level of HAP4 in glucose containing medium leads to de-repression of transcription of *QCR8*, the gene encoding the 11kDa subunit of the yeast ubiquinol-cytochrome c oxidoreductase (*QCR*) complex of the respiratory chain. Comparable results were obtained for a number of other genes encoding respiratory components (Table I). Transcription of *SUC2*, a glucose repressed gene without an Hap binding box in the promoter region is not induced by overexpression of HAP4 on glucose.

To test whether the increased level of mRNAs of respiratory components results in an higher respiratory capacity of the Hap4 overproducing strain, we measured oxygen consumption rates of cells as described in a previously section. Respiratory capacity of DL1HAP cells grown in shake flask cultures on complex media containing glucose is increased two-fold compared to wildtype cells (Table II). When grown in the presence of the non-fermentable carbon-source lactate, the respiratory capacity is further increased approximately five-fold to a level similar for both wildtype and Hap overproducing strains.

Further characterization of the physiological properties of the Hap4 overproducing strain required growth under controlled conditions (constant pH, aeration, stirring) in well defined mineral media (see section 'batch cultivation in fermentors'). Therefore, aerobic growth of DL1 in a defined mineral salts medium containing 30 g/l (3%) glucose was

compared with growth of DL1HAP cells. As calculated from the growth curves (not shown), DL1 grew exponentially with a specific growth rate of $0.16 \pm 0.01 \text{ h}^{-1}$, whereas the growth rate of DL1HAP was $0.18 \pm 0.01 \text{ h}^{-1}$. Overproduction of Hap4 thus results in an increased growth rate of 11%.

During a period of six hours during exponential growth, samples were taken with an interval of one hour to measure substrate consumption and biomass and product formation. The mean biomass yield during this time course, i.e. the amount of biomass formed per gram consumed glucose is 10.1 gram for DL1 and 14.8 gram for DL1HAP. Overproduction of Hap4 thus leads to 46% increase in biomass yield compared to wild type, which is rather constant during the experiment. (see Figure 10).

Analysis of other carbon compounds present in the culture medium showed that ethanol production is significantly decreased (38%) in DL1HAP compared to the wild type (Table IV). The reduction in ethanol formation is accompanied by a 2.3-fold increase of the amount of acetate, whereas the amount of glycerol decreased 3.5-fold in DL1HAP cells. The oxygen consumption during the experiment was approximately twice as high in DL1HAP compared to DL1. All data are thus consistent with a shift of carbon metabolism from fermentative towards oxidative metabolism due to overexpression of HAP4. This is further illustrated in Table V, which summarizes carbon fluxes in both strains. The amount of CO_2 produced via TCA cycle was calculated by the amount of oxygen consumed during the experiment.

When grown under anaerobic conditions, both strains are identical with respect to growth rate, ethanol production and biomass yield (data not shown). This implies that overexpression of HAP4 only exhibits its effect during aerobic growth of yeast. Processes depending on anaerobic alcoholic fermentation, like brewing or dough leavening will

be unaffected by *HAP4* overexpression. This invention is therefore very well applicable in optimization of biomass yields in the aerobic production phase of industrial yeast strains.

5

Taking into account strain-dependent variations in glucose repression (23, 19), it should be mentioned that the regulation of expression of *HAP4* in several industrial strains was found to be similar to laboratory strains described above and in literature (13), i.e. the expression is repressed by glucose (data not shown). To obtain constitutive high expression levels of *HAP4* in the industrial strains, we integrated a DNA construct consisting of a constitutively active promoter (of glyceraldehyde-phosphate dehydrogenase, *GPD1* and elongation factor 1-alpha, *TEF2*) fused to the coding region of the *HAP4* gene in the genome of the yeast strain. The integration plasmid is constructed in such a way that the promoter-*HAP4* fusion is flanked by DNA sequences representing parts of the yeast *SIT2* gene (see Fig 11 and 13). Integration of the total plasmid including the promoter-*HAP4* fusion can therefore take place at the *SIT2* locus in the yeast genome. The presence of a gene encoding acetamidase (*amdS*) enables cells which have integrated the plasmid to grow on medium containing acetamide as a nitrogen source, in contrast to untransformed cells which are unable to grow on this medium. Since the plasmid does not contain any sequences which enable replication in yeast, integration of the plasmid in the genome is required to acquire the ability to grow on acetamide.

30

Strains DS28911, DS18332 and DS19806 were transformed with the plasmid *pKSP02-GPDHAP4* or *pKSP02-TEFHAP4*. Transformants with an integrated plasmid in the genome were selected on plates containing acetamide. Transformants containing *pKSP02-GPDHAP4* were named DS28911GH, DS18332GH, or DS19806GH, transformants containing *pKSP02-TEFHAP4* DS28911TH, DS18332TH

35

or DS19806TH. In a number of transformants the position of integration was analysed by Southern blotting, in which genomic DNA fragments containing SIT2 and/or HAP4 sequences were visualized (see Fig 13). The length of the different
5 fragments revealed that integration preferentially took place at the HAP4 locus, as shown in Figure 13 and 14. These (anaploid) transformants contain both one or more glucose repressed HAP4 genes and a HAP4 gene which is under control of a constitutively active promoter.

10

To test the expression level of HAP4 in these transformants, mRNA was analysed of cells grown aerobically in media containing 2% glucose. The mRNA expression level of one selected transformant of every strain containing either the
15 GPDHAP4 (GH) or the TEFHAP4 (TH) is shown in Figure 15. Different levels of HAP4 mRNA were obtained in the different strains and with the two different promoters. The effect of overexpression of HAP4 on expression of QCR8, a glucose-repressed gene encoding a subunit of the respiratory chain
20 was analysed in four independent transformants. Strains exhibiting clear and reproducible de-repression of QCR8 were selected for further studies and are shown in Figure 15. As a loading control a constitutively expressed gene (PDA, encoding a subunit of pyruvate dehydrogenase, (24)) was
25 visualized, showing that the higher expression of QCR8 is due to HAP4 overexpression. The integrated constitutively expressed HAP4 thus appears to result in alleviation of transcriptional repression of a respiratory component, analogous to the effect of the plasmid encoded HAP4 under
30 control of the ADH1 promoter as described above.

To test the respiratory capacity of DS28911, DS18332 and DS19806 with the integrated GPDHAP4 (GH) or the TEFHAP4 (TH) fusion, we measured oxygen consumption rates of cells grown
35 in medium containing 4% glucose. As shown in Table VI, overexpression of HAP4 on glucose results in an increase of the respiratory capacity, ranging from 2.2 to 4.1 fold the

value found in the corresponding wild type cells. The respiratory capacity of cells grown in lactate containing medium is 7.7 fold higher than in wild type cells. The alleviation of glucose repression of respiratory function is thus only partial, but similar or even higher than obtained with the laboratory strain DL1 containing the ADH1-HAP4 fusion on plasmid. It can therefore be expected that the physiological advantages of the latter strain are also applicable to the industrial strains harbouring the integrated constitutively expressed HAP4.

Application of the modified industrial strains requires removal of any sequences that are not derived from yeast. The transformants contain the total plasmid pKSPO2-GPDHAP4 or pKSPO2-TEFHAP4 in the genome. The 'non-yeast' plasmid sequences can however be removed by homologous recombination of identical DNA segments in the genome, as depicted in Figure 13. Cells which are devoid of plasmid sequences can be selected by growth on medium containing fluoro-acetamide, which is toxic for cells still containing the gene encoding acetamidase. When the plasmid is integrated at the HAP4 locus, this recombination event will cause loss of the GPD- or TEF-HAP fusion as well, resulting in a wild type strain. Only after integration at the SIT2 locus the chromosomal arrangement is such that recombination can also result in cells that still contain the GPD- or TEF-HAP4 fusion. These 'clean' transformants now only contain yeast sequences and are suitable for industrial application.

To obtain these clean transformants, strains DS28911, DS18332 and DS19806 were transformed with plasmid pKSPO2-GPDHAP4 or pKSPO2-TEFHAP4 which was linearized at the *Sfi*I site (see Figure 11B). This led to a higher efficiency of integration at the SIT2 locus, as shown by Southern blot analysis. Comparison of expected (Figure 13) and obtained (Figure 16A) DNA fragments of a number of transformants revealed a new set of strains overexpressing HAP4 from the SIT2 locus. The expression levels of HAP4, QCR8 and PDA1 were determined by

northern blotting of mRNAs isolated from cells grown in medium containing 2% glucose. As shown in Figure 17A, also in these strains the elevated expression of HAP4 resulted in alleviation of glucose repression of QCR8. Subsequently we
5 selected fluoro-acetamide resistant cells that had lost their plasmid sequences (including the acetamidase gene) by homologous recombination. Transformants which retained the GPD- or TEF-HAP4 fusion in the genome were selected by verification of the correct chromosomal arrangement by
10 Southern blot analysis. Figure 16B shows three examples of clean transformants derived from transformants DS18332GH15 and DS18332TH25. As shown in Figure 17B, removal of the plasmid sequences has no negative effect on either HAP4 overexpression or QCR8 derepression. The effect of the HAP4
15 overexpression in these strains on oxidative metabolism can therefore be expected to be similar to those described above.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

20 Cloning techniques

All general cloning techniques (plasmid isolation, restriction, gel electrophoresis, ligation) were carried out as described by Maniatis et al., Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring
25 Harbor, N.Y. (1982). DNA restriction enzymes were purchased from New England Biolabs (Biolabs), Boehringer Mannheim (Boehringer) or Bethesda Research laboratories (BRL). These enzymes were used in conditions and buffers described by the manufacturer.

30

Construction of recombinant plasmid YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4

The centromeric plasmids YCplac111::ADH1 and YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4 are capable of self-replicating in E. coli and in yeast and contains the ADH1 promoter region without
35 (YCplac111::ADH1) or with the coding sequence of HAP4. The construction of YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4 is outlined in Figure 7.

YCplac111::ADH1 is derived from YCplac111 (25) and contains between the BamHI and the SmaI site a 723 bp EcoRV promoter fragment from pBPH1 (26). Vector pBPH1 was derived from pAC1 (27), which is a YCp50 derivative which carries the
5 BamHI/HindIII fragment from pMAC561 containing the yeast alcohol dehydrogenase I promoter (28).

The coding region of HAP4 was cloned behind the ADH1 promoter in the former construct by isolation of HAP4 from pSLF406 (13). pSLF406 was digested with BspHI, which cleaves
10 HAP4 at position -1 relative to the start codon the coding sequence. The BspHI end was blunted and subsequently the HAP4 fragment obtained by cleavage of the DNA with PstI and isolation from agarose gel. YCplac111 was cleaved with SmaI and PstI and ligated with the HAP4 fragment to generate
15 YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4.

Construction of recombinant integration plasmids p425-GPDHAP4, p425-TEFHAP4, pKSP02-GPDHAP4 and pKSP02-TEFHAP4

The plasmid pKSP02 is used for integration of a fusion of
20 HAP4 and the GPD1 or TEF2 promoter. These fusions were first constructed in shuttle vectors containing either the GPD1 (p425GPD) or the TEF2 promoter region (p425TEF) (22). A 2621 bp fragment from pSLF406 (13), containing the HAP4 gene, was isolated after digestion with BspHI, blunting and digestion
25 with PstI as described in the previous paragraph. This HAP4 fragment was cloned in SmaI and PstI sites of the vectors p425GPD or p425TEF, resulting in the vectors p425-GPDHAP4 and p425-TEFHAP4 respectively. These shuttle vectors can self-replicate in *E. coli* and in yeast, but will only be
30 maintained in yeast when selective pressure is present, i.e. when the recipient strain is LEU2 auxotrophic. In industrial strains without auxotrophic markers, integration of the GPDHAP or TEFHAP fusion is required to maintain the altered HAP gene stable in yeast. The promoter-HAP4 fragments were
35 therefore recloned into the integration vector pKSP02 (constructed at and provided by Gistbrocades). A 3359 bp Ecl136II-SalI GPDHAP4 fragment was isolated from p425-GPDHAP4

and a 3081 bp *Ecl*136II-SalI fragment was isolated from p425-TEFHAP4, which were cloned into pKSP02 digested with *Sma*I and *Sal*I. The different cloning steps are schematically drawn in Figure 11. Figure 12 shows the DNA sequence of the GPDHAP4 and TEFHAP4 fusions.

Transformation procedures

Transformation of *E. coli* was carried out using the electroporation technique, using a Biorad *E. coli* pulser according to the description of the manufacturer.

Yeast cells were transformed according to the LiAc method described by Ito et al (29). Transformants of strain DL1 with the plasmid YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4 were selected on plates containing 2% glucose, 2% agar, 0.67% Yeast Nitrogen Base (Difco) supplied with the required aminoacids but lacking leucine. The industrial strains DS28911, DS18332 and DS19806 were plated on medium consisting of 1.8% nitrogen-free agar (Oxoid), 1.17% Yeast Carbon Base (Difco), 30 mM phosphate buffer pH 6.8 and 5mM acetamide (Sigma).

Counterselection of transformants

To select for transformants which after integration of the plasmid pKSP02-GPDHAP4 or pKSP02-TEFHAP4 recombine the plasmid sequences out of the genome (see Figure 13),

counterselection was carried out on plates containing 1.8% nitrogen-free agar, 1.17% Yeast Carbon Base, 30 mM phosphate buffer, 60 mM fluoro-acetamide (Fluka) and 0.1% $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$.

Transformants were grown in YPD medium for 60 to 70 generations by daily dilution of the cultures for 3 to 4 days. Aliquots of the cultures were plated on the fluoro-acetamide containing plates, which selects for cells which have recombined out the acetamidase gene. The presence of the GPDHAP4 or TEFHAP4 fusion was tested by Southern blot analysis.

Growth of yeast in flask-batch cultures

For shake flask cultivation, yeast cells were grown in either YPD (1% Yeast Extract, 1% BactoPeptone, 3% D-Glucose), YPEG (Yeast Extract, 1% BactoPeptone, 2% Ethanol, 2% Glycerol),
5 YPL (lactate medium: 1.5% lactic acid, 2% Na-lactate, 0.1% Glucose, 8mM MgSO₄, 45 mM (NH)₂HPO₄, 0.5% Yeast-extract) or in mineral medium (0.67% Yeast Nitrogen Base) containing 3% D-glucose and supplemented with the appropriate aminoacids to obtain selective pressure for maintenance of the transformed
10 plasmid.

All cultures were inoculated from precultures which were prepared by inoculation of 5 ml medium with a colony from a plate. For northern analysis and oxygen consumption capacity measurements, the wild type and modified industrial yeast
15 strains were precultured overnight in YPD and strain DL1 containing YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4 and DL1 containing the empty YCplac111 vector were precultured overnight in mineral medium with additional amino acids. These cultures were used to inoculate 100ml YPEG and/or YPD medium and grown overnight at
20 28°C to OD₆₀₀ ~1.5, after which cells were harvested by centrifugation.

Growth of yeast in fermentor-batch cultures

Transformed yeast cells were grown in selective mineral Evans
25 medium containing 30 g l⁻¹ D-Glucose and supplemented with 40 mg l⁻¹ uracil and L-histidine. The mineral medium contained : NaH₂PO₄·2H₂O, 10mM; KCl, 10 mM; MgCl₂·6H₂O, 1.25 mM; NH₄Cl, 0.1 mM; Na₂SO₄, 2 mM; C₆H₉NO₆, 2 mM; CaCl₂, 20 mM; ZnO, 25.3 mM; FeCl₃·H₂O, 99.9 mM; MnCl₂, 50.5 mM; CuCl₂, 5 mM; CoCl₂,
30 10 mM; H₃BO₃, 5.2 mM; Na₂MoO₄·2H₂O, 0.08 mM. After heat sterilization of the medium at 120°C, filter sterilized vitamins were added to final concentrations per liter of : myoinositol, 0.55 mM; nicotineacid, 0.16 mM; Ca-D(+)-panthothenate, 0.02 mM; pyridoxine-HCL, 0.013 mM;
35 thiamine-HCl, 0.006 mM; biotin, 0.02 mM.

Cultivation was performed at 28°C in New Brunswick Scientific Bioflow fermentors, at a stirrer speed of 900 rpm. The pH was

kept constant at pH 5.0 via the automatic addition of 2 mol l⁻¹ NaOH. Antifoam (BDH) was added automatically at fixed time intervals. The fermentors were flushed with air at a flow rate of 0.8 l min⁻¹. The starting working volume of the
5 cultures was 1.0 or 1.4 liter. Samples of 30 ml were taken every hour for analysis of culture purity, dry weight, substrate consumption and product formation.

Determination of culture optical density and dry weight

10 Optical cell density of cultures was measured in a spectrophotometer at 600nm. The dry weight of cultures was determined by centrifugation of 10.0 ml of culture, washing cells with demineralized H₂O, and drying the cell pellet overnight at 80°C. Parallel samples varied by less than 1%.

15 Substrate consumption and product formation in liquid medium
Concentrations of carbon compounds, like glucose, ethanol, glycerol, acetate and pyruvate were determined by HPLC analysis using an Aminex HPX87H organic acids column of
20 Biorad at 65°C. The column was eluted with 5 mM H₂SO₄.
Detection was by means of a 2142 refractive index detector (LKB) and SP4270 integrator of SpectraPhysics.

Analysis of CO₂ production and O₂ consumption

25 During cultivation in fermentors, the dissolved carbondioxide concentration was continuously monitored by a cervomex IR PA404 gas analyzer and oxygen by a Taylor cervomex OA 272 gas analyzer. The absolute amounts of gas consumption/production during the time course of the experiment was calculated by
30 the mean of the gas concentration, corrected for the decreasing volume of the culture.

For oxygen consumption capacity measurements of flask-batch grown cells, the cells were harvested, washed three times with ice-cold demineralized H₂O, and resuspended in oxygraph
35 buffer (1% Yeast Extract, 0.1 % KH₂PO₄, 0.12 % (NH₄)₂SO₄, pH 4.5) at 200 OD units ml⁻¹. Oxygen consumption capacity of the

cells was measured with a Clark electrode, with 0.1 mM ethanol as substrate.

RNA isolation, Northern analysis and labelling of DNA fragments

Cells were harvested and RNA was isolated, separated on a non-denaturing 1.2% agarose gel and transferred to a nitrocellulose filter as described by De Winde (30). Prehybridization was performed in hybridization buffer containing 50 microgram/ml single stranded salmon sperm DNA (50% formamide, 25 mM NaPi pH 6.5, 5xSSC, 5xDenhardt, as described by Maniatis (31)). DNA fragments used as probes in this study include a 840 bp HindIII-SalI fragment from pJH1 (30); a 1.6 kb BamHI-KpnI fragment containing the yeast actin gene (24); ; a 2.5 kb HindIII-SalI fragment from YE23SH containing the QCR2 gene (25); a 1333 bp NcoI-HindIII fragment from pAZ6 containing the yeast PDA1 gene (24) and a 1.2 kb BamHI-HindIII fragment from YE23R-SOD/SUC containing the SUC2 gene (26). Fragments were labeled ^{32}P by nicktranslation as described by Maniatis et al. Labeled probes were added to the prehybridization buffer and hybridization was performed overnight at 42°C. Blots were washed once with 2x SSC 0.1%SDS, twice with 1xSSC, 0.1%SDS and finally with 0.5x SSC, 0.1%SDS. Blots were air-dried completely and autoradiography was performed with Kodak Xomat 100 film or analysed by a Storm 840 Molecular Dynamics Phosphorimager.

Chromosomal DNA isolation and Southern blotting

Chromosomal DNA was isolated according to the method described by Hoffman and Winston (34). 10 microliter of the chromosomal DNA was digested with either BamHI or EcoRI. The digested DNA was separated on a 1% agarose gel and transferred to nitrocellulose filter as described in Maniatis (31). Prehybridization of the filters was performed at 65°C in 6xSSC, 5xDenhardt, 0.5% SDS and 100 microgram/ml salmon sperm DNA. After 4 hours prehybridization, a radioactive labeled

KpnI-XbaI fragment from pKSP02-GPDHAP (see Figure 11B and 13) was added and hybridization was continued overnight at 65°C. Blots were washed once with 2x SSC 0.1%SDS, twice with 1xSSC, 0.1%SDS and finally with 0.5x SSC, 0.1%SDS. Blots were air-dried completely and radioactivity was visualised and analysed by a Storm 840 Molecular Dynamics Phosphorimager.

Description to the figures

10 Figure 1

Simplified view of the carbon metabolism in glucose-repressed *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cells. Only a number of intermediates are shown, and specific pathways for the utilization of other carbon sources than glucose are only shown for maltose and galactose.

Figure 2

Transcriptional regulation of a typical yeast promoter. ATG denotes the start codon of the corresponding translational open reading frame. Abbreviations: UIS, upstream induction site; UAS, upstream activation site; URS, upstream repressor site; T, TATA-box, I, initiation site.

Figure 3

25 Schematic representation of the regulatory pathways involved in glucose repression of a number of genes in yeast. Activating functions are denoted as (+), repressing/inactivating functions as (-), and interactions which are not resolved yet are denoted as (?).

30 Figure 4

nucleotide and amino-acid sequence of the HAP2 gene

Figure 5

35 nucleotide and amino-acid sequence of the HAP3 gene

Figure 6

nucleotide and amino-acid sequence of the HAP4 gene

Figure 7

- 5 illustrates the construction of YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4, a yeast shuttle vector where HAP4 is expressed from the ADH1 promoter. Plasmids are not drawn to scale.

Figure 8

- 10 nucleotide and amino-acid sequence of the ADH1-HAP4 fusion

Figure 9

- northern blot analysis of HAP4 overexpression. DL1 containing YCplac111ADH1 (WT) and DL1 containing YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4 (+HAP4) were grown in medium containing 2% glucose (D) or 2% ethanol/2% glycerol (EG). Total RNA was hybridized with probes specific for HAP4, actin (ACT), QCR8, or SUC2 mRNA.

Figure 10

- 20 Biomass yield. DL1 containing YCplac111::ADH1 (DL1) and DL1 containing YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4 (DL1HAP) were grown in fermentors. Samples for determination of dry weight and glucose concentration were taken with an interval of one hour.

25

Figure 11

- A. Construction of the plasmids p425-GPDHAP4, p425-TEFHAP4,
B. Construction of the plasmids pKSP02-GPDHAP4 and pKSP02-TEFHAP4

30

Figure 12

- A. nucleotide and amino acid sequence of the GPD1 promoter fused to the coding region of HAP4.
B. nucleotide and amino acid sequence of the TEF2 promoter fused to the coding region of HAP4.
35 The fragments shown are the fragments as cloned into pKSP02 and represent the sequence as integrated in the genome

Figure 13

Scheme of genomic DNA at HAP4 and SIT locus and chromosomal rearrangements after integration of the plasmid pKSP02-GPD1 or pKSP02-TEFHAP4 on either the SIT2 locus or the HAP4 locus, and after counterselection on fluoro-acetamide (Fac). Fragments generated after digestion with BamHI or EcoRI which hybridize with the KpnI-XbaI probe (shown as thick black bar) are visualized for comparison with the Southern blots shown in Figure 13 and 15. SITpr: SIT2 promoter, HAP4pr: HAP4 promoter, G/Tpr: GPD or TEF promoter, B: BamHI, E: EcoRI, K: KpnI, X: XbaI, FacR: fluoro-acetamide resistant.

Figure 14

Southern blot of chromosomal DNA digested with BamHI of transformants with pKSP02-GPDHAP (GH) or pKSP02-TEFHAP (TH) integrated at the HAP4 locus. The blot was hybridized with the KpnI-XbaI probe shown in Figure 12, visualizing fragments containing SIT2 and/or HAP4 sequences. Radioactivity was visualised and analysed by a Storm 840 Molecular Dynamics Phosphorimager.

Figure 15

Northern blot of total mRNA of transformants with pKSP02-GPDHAP (GH) or pKSP02-TEFHAP (TH) integrated at the HAP4 locus as in Figure 14. The blots were hybridized with probes specific for HAP4, QCR8 or PDA1.

Figure 16

Southern blot of chromosomal DNA digested with BamHI or EcoRI of transformants containing pKSP02-GPDHAP (GH) or pKSP02-TEFHAP (TH) integrated at the SIT2 locus (A) and three clean transformants containing the GPDHAP4 or TEFHAP4 fusion after counterselection on fluoro-acetamide (B). The blot was hybridized with the KpnI-XbaI probe shown in Figure 12, visualizing fragments containing SIT2 and/or HAP4 sequences.

Figure 17

Northern blot of total mRNA of transformants with pKSP02-GPDHAP (GH) or pKSP02-TEFHAP (TH) integrated at the SIT2 locus as in Figure 16. The blots were hybridized with probes
5 specific for HAP4, QCR8 or PDA1 mRNA.

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Table I. Effect of induced expression of HAP4 on transcription.

gene	protein	functional HAP 4 binding site	expression in wildtype on glucose	expression in HAP4 - overproducer on glucose
QCR8	11 kD subunit VIII	+	repressed	induced
QCR7	14 kD subunit VII	+	repressed	induced
QCR2	40 kD subunit II	+	repressed	induced
CYC1	iso-1- cytochrome c	+	repressed	induced
SUC2	invertase	-	repressed	repressed

5 Table II. Oxygen consumption capacity of D11 and DL1HAP yeast cells

	oxygen consumption nmol/min/mg dry weight	
	Glucose (4%) -grown cells	Lactate-grown cells
DL1	9.4	88.1 (9.4 x wt Glu)
DL1HAP	18.1 (1.9 x wt Glu)	86.7 (9.2 x wt Glu)

Table III. Biomass yield.

strain	Y_{glu} g. dry weight.g ⁻¹ Glu
D11	10.1
DL1HAP	14.8

Table IV. Carbon compounds in culture medium during batch growth in fermentors. Data are mean values of several experiments

strain	ethanol mol.L ⁻¹ .g ⁻¹	acetate dry weight	glycerol cells
DL1	79.5	1.6	10.2
DL1HAP	49.4	3.6	2.9

5 Table V. Carbon fluxes indicated as percentage mol C of consumed glucose Carbon balance DL1=103%, DL1HAP=108%

strain	CO ₂ -TCA	ethanol	acetate	glycerol	biomass
DL1	7.3	72.5	1.4	9.5	12.2
DL1HAP	15.5	66.0	5.0	4.0	17.8

Table VI. Oxygen consumption capacity of industrial strains

	oxygen consumption nmol/min/mg dry weight	
	Glucose (4%) -grown cells	Lactate-grown cells
DS28911	25.3	ND
DS28911-GH2a	104.0 (4.1x wt glu)	ND
DS28911-TH2a	75.0 (3.0x wt glu)	ND
DS18332	31.5	241 (7.7x wt glu)
DS18332-GH1a	94.5 (3.0x wt glu)	ND
DS18332-TH2a	70.3 (2.2x wt glu)	ND
DS19806	23.8	ND
DS19806-GH1a	87.2 (3.7x wt glu)	ND
DS19806-TH2a	65.6 (2.8x wt glu)	ND

CLAIMS

1. A method for providing a micro-organism which has a preferred metabolic pathway in the presence of a certain carbon source with the capability to inhibit or circumvent said preferred metabolic pathway, comprising providing said
5 micro-organism with the capability to derepress or circumvent the repression of at least one metabolic pathway which is not preferred in the presence of said certain carbon source.
2. A method according to claim 1 whereby the carbon source is glucose.
- 10 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 whereby the micro-organism is a yeast.
4. A method according to claim 3 whereby the yeast is a *Saccharomyces*.
5. A method according to claim 4 whereby the *Saccharomyces*
15 is a *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.
6. A method according to anyone of the foregoing claims whereby the repressed metabolism of other carbon sources comprises the respiratory pathway or gluconeogenesis.
7. A method according to anyone of the foregoing claims
20 whereby the repressed metabolism is restored to a significant extent by activation of the pathways for metabolism for the non-preferred carbon sources.
8. A method according to claim 7 whereby said activation is achieved by providing the micro-organism with at least one
25 transcriptional activator for at least one gene encoding an enzyme in said pathways.
9. A method according to claim 8 whereby the transcriptional activator is provided by introduction into the micro-organism of a recombinant nucleic acid encoding
30 said activator.
10. A method according to claim 9 whereby said recombinant nucleic acid is an expression vector.

11. A method according to claim 9 and 10 whereby the recombinant nucleic acid is derived from the same species as the micro-organism.
12. A method according to any one of claims 8-11, whereby
5 the transcriptional activator is constitutively expressed by said micro-organism.
13. A method according to any one of claims 8-11 whereby the transcriptional activator can be expressed by the micro-organism upon induction.
- 10 14. A method according to claim 13 whereby expression of said activator is induced by the presence of glucose.
15. A method according to anyone of claims 8-14 whereby the transcriptional activator is a HAP4 protein or a functional equivalent, derivative or fragment thereof.
- 15 16. A method according to anyone of the foregoing claims whereby the micro-organism comprises a recombinant nucleic acid encoding a protein of interest.
17. A method according to claim 16 whereby said recombinant nucleic acid is an expression vector.
- 20 18. A method according to claim 16 or 17 whereby said protein of interest is a heterologous protein.
19. A micro-organism obtainable by a method according to anyone of the foregoing claims.
20. A micro-organism according to claim 19 having improved
25 biomass yield upon culturing.
21. A micro-organism according to claim 19 or 20 showing increased glucose oxidation.
22. A micro-organism according to claim 19, 20 or 21 displaying increased oxidative sugar metabolism.
- 30 23. A micro-organism according to any one of claims 19-22 displaying reduced production of ethanol.
24. A micro-organism according to anyone of claims 19-23 which under anaerobic culturing conditions behaves essentially the same as the corresponding micro-organism not
35 provided with the capabilities of anyone of claims 1-18.

GLUCOSE REPRESSED YEAST CELL

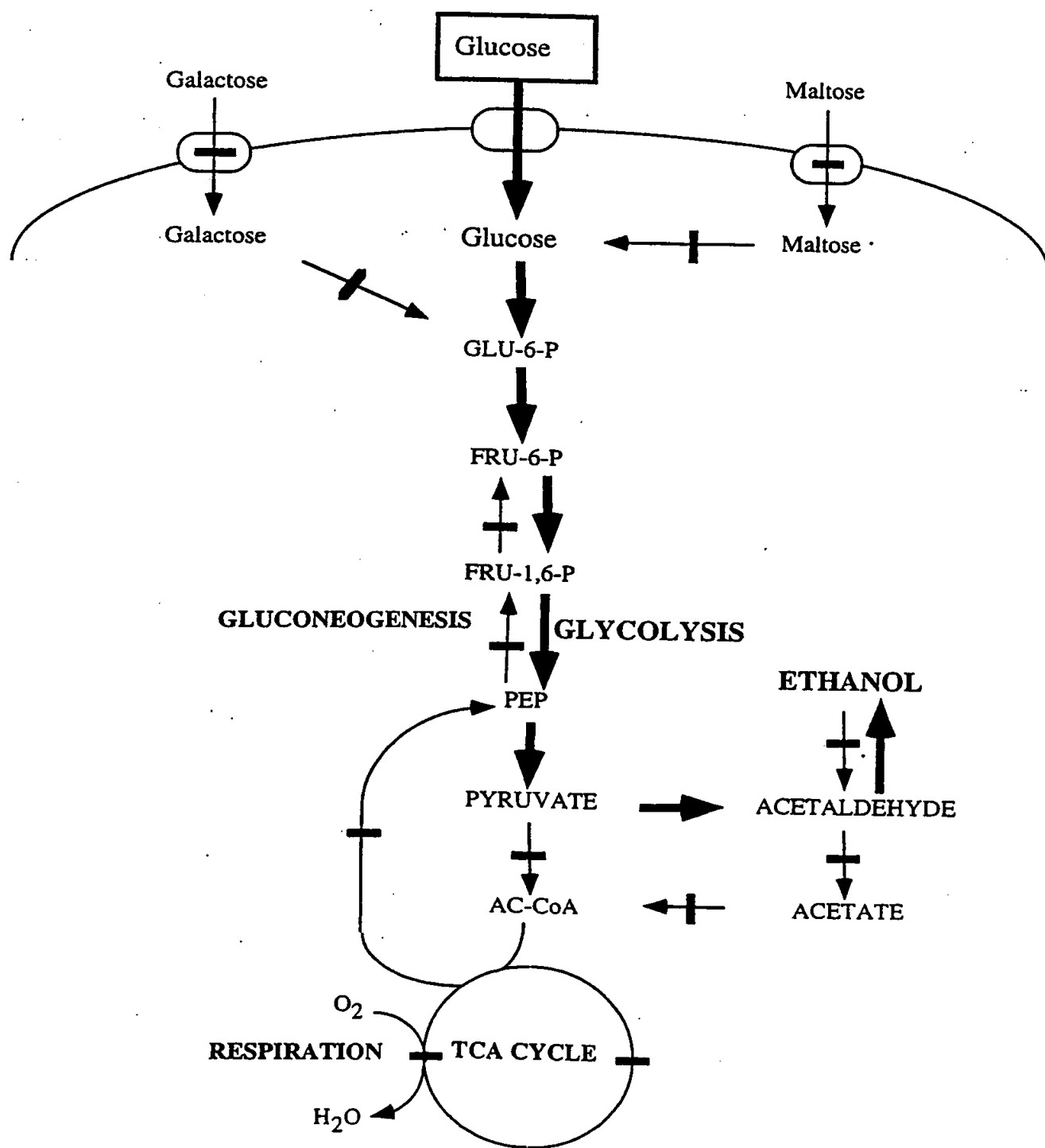


Figure 1

⊥→ GLUCOSE REPRESSED/INACTIVATED REACTIONS

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Figure 2

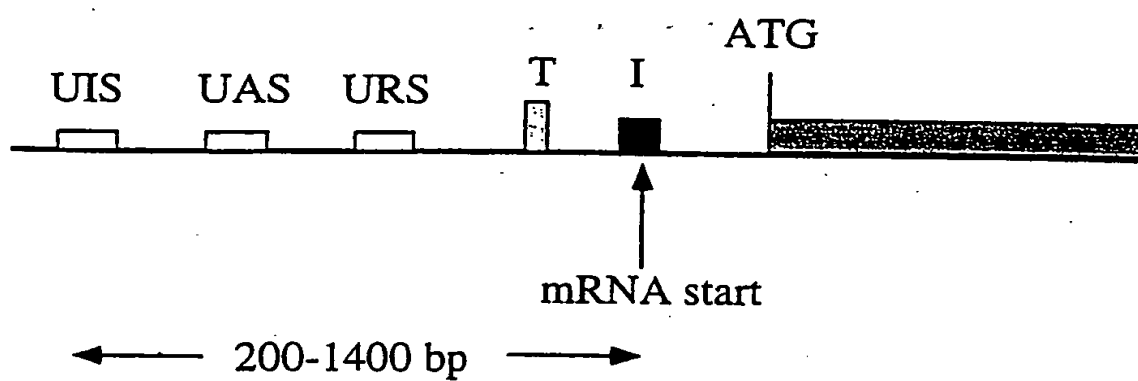


FIG. 2

REGULATORY PATHWAYS INVOLVED IN GLUCOSE REPRESSION

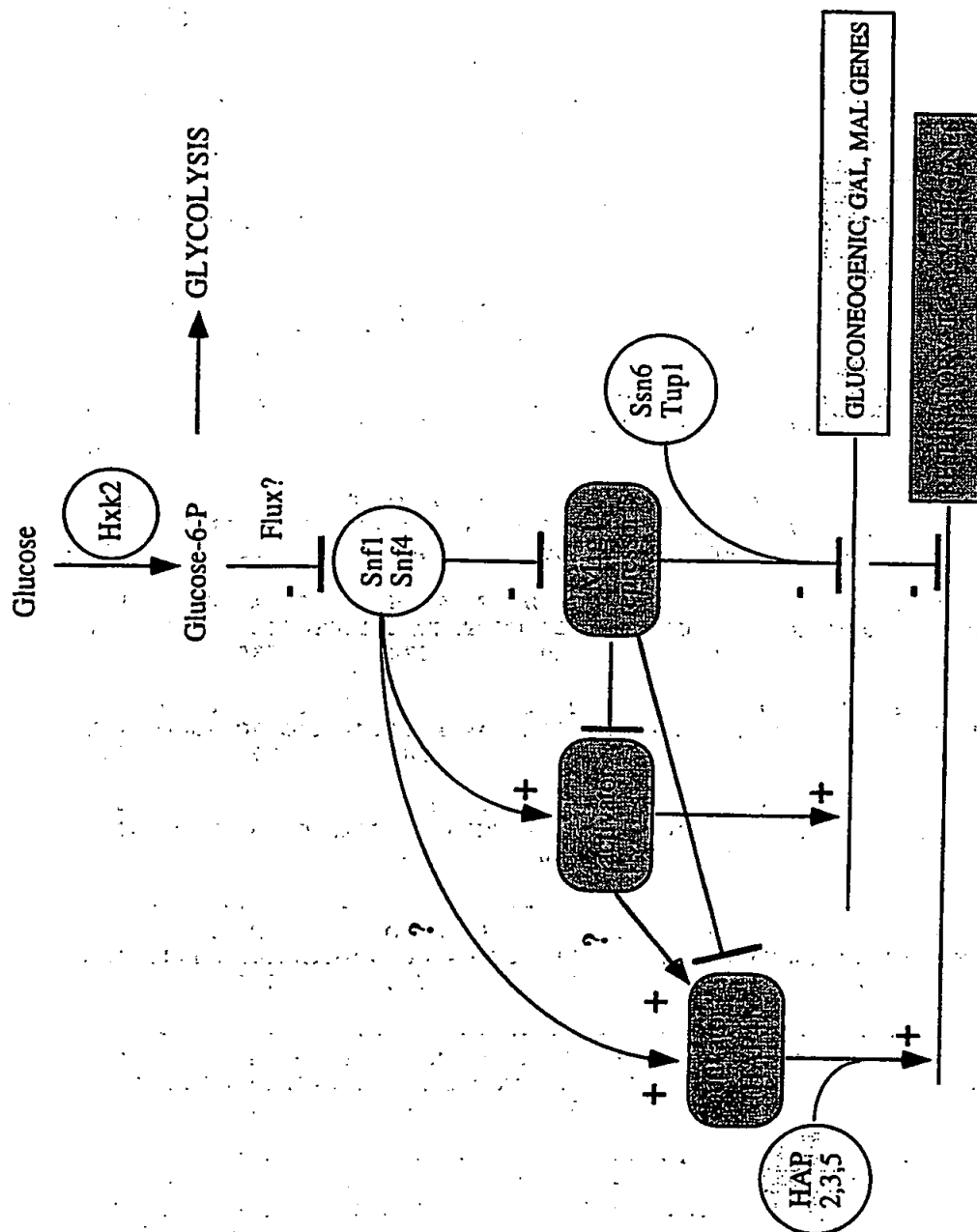


FIG. 3

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Figure 4: Nucleotide and amino acid sequence of HAP2

TCGTTATTTAGCAATCTTACCCGAAAACTTCTTGTATCGTAACATTAATTCTCCCTTAC
10 20 30 40 50 60

AAGGGGACCTCGATGAATAAATAAAGTGTGTTGTTGAAGGTACTTGCAAAAGGGCAACT
70 80 90 100 110 120

CACTGTCGTTTATAATTTGATTTACTAATCGCATCTGTATTTGAAAAAGCATTCTTTTTT
130 140 150 160 170 180

M S A D E T D A K F H P L
GGAAGAGGAACAAGAACGCCATGTCAGCAGACGAAACGGATGCGAAATTTTCATCCATTAG
190 200 210 220 230 240

E T D L Q S D T A A A T S T A A A S R S
AAACAGATCTGCAATCTGATACAGCGGCTGCAACATCAACGGCAGCAGCTTCACGCAGTC
250 260 270 280 290 300

P S L Q E K P I E M P L D M G K A P S P
CCTCTCTTCAAGAGAAGCCCATAGAGATGCCCTTGGATATGGGAAAAGCGCCTTCTCCAA
310 320 330 340 350 360

R G E D Q R V T N E E D L F L F N R L R
GAGGCGAAGATCAACGGGTTACAAATGAAGAAGATTTGTTTTGTTTAAACAGATTGCGGG
370 380 390 400 410 420

A S Q N R V M D S L E P Q Q Q S Q Y T S
CATCACAGAATAGAGTTATGGACTCCTTGAACCACAACAACAGTCACAGTATACATCTT
430 440 450 460 470 480

S S V S T M E P S A D F T S F S A V T T
CCAGTGTCAAGTACGATGGAACCATCTGCCGACTTTACTAGTTTCTCTGCAGTGACTACTT
490 500 510 520 530 540

L P P P P H Q Q Q Q Q Q Q Q Q Q Q Q Q Q Q
TACCGCCTCCTCCTCATCAACAACAACAGCAACAACAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAGCAAT
550 560 570 580 590 600

L V V Q A Q Y T Q N Q P N L Q S D V L G
TGGTGGTTCAAGCCAGTACACCCAAAATCAACCAAATTTGCAAAGCGATGTTTTAGGAA
610 620 630 640 650 660

T A I A E Q P F Y V N A K Q Y Y R I L K
CCGCTATAGCAGAGCAACCATTTTATGTTAATGCCAAGCAGTACTACCGAATTTTGA AAA
670 680 690 700 710 720

R R Y A R A K L E E K L R I S R E R K P
GGCGATATGCAAGAGCTAAACTAGAGGAAAAGCTACGAATATCAAGAGAACGAAAGCCAT
730 740 750 760 770 780

Y L H E S R H K H A M R R P R G E G G R
ACTTACACGAATCTCGACATAAACATGCGATGCGAAGACCTCGTGGTGAAGGTGGGAGGT
790 800 810 820 830 840

F L T A A E I K A M K S K K S G A S D D
TCTTGACAGCCGCTGAGATCAAAGCCATGAAATCGAAGAAAAGTGGGGCTAGCGATGATC
850 860 870 880 890 900

5/30

P D D S H E D K K I T T K I I Q E Q P H
CTGACGATAGTCATGAGGATAAAAAAATCACTACTAAAATAATACAAGAACAGCCGCATG
910 920 930 940 950 960

A T S T A A A A D K K T *
CTACTTCCACCGCAGCTGCAGCAGACAAAAAACATAATTTTGTAAATATTCCAATGTAA
970 980 990 1000 1010 1020

TATCATTCCTAAAAGAACTAAAAGTGCCTCTTATACCACATGGTATCCATATGGCCTAT
1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080

TTAATCTGAATCAATATGTATATGTACTTTTACCAATCTCGTTTCGTTTCGTTTCGTTTC
1090 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140

ATTTCTAACAGACCTATGTACTCCGCTGGAAAAGAAACCATATTGCGATCGTATTTAC
1150 1160 1170 1180 1190

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Figure 5: Nucleotide and amino acid sequence of HAP3

CAAACCTTCTGCCAAATATAGCACAATAGAAGTACCATATTACGTTTCGATGCCACGACA
10 20 30 40 50 60

ATATCGCGCTACGTGCGTTTTTTGGTCCGCTCTTTCAGACTAAGTAAAAAAGAGCTGCG
70 80 90 100 110 120

AATAGTAGCTTTCCGCCAATCAAACCTCAAGAGCAGGACTAAGCTAGATAGTAACACAAGT
130 140 150 160 170 180

M N T N E S E H V S T S P
GGCACAAACCTCTCGAGAATATGAATACCAACGAGTCCGAACATGTTAGCACAAAGCCAG
190 200 210 220 230 240

E D T Q E N G G N A S S S G S L Q Q I S
AGGATACTCAGGAGAACGGTGGAAACGCTAGCTCCAGCGGCAGTTTGCAGCAAATTTCCA
250 260 270 280 290 300

T L R E Q D R W L P I N N V A R L M K N
CGCTAAGAGAGCAGGACAGATGGCTACCCATCAACAATGTAGCGCGACTCATGAAGAATA
310 320 330 340 350 360

T L P P S A K V S K D A K E C M Q E C V
CTCTCCCACCGAGTGCTAAGGTATCGAAAGATGCGAAAGAGTGCATGCAGGAGTGTGTCA
370 380 390 400 410 420

S E L I S F V T S E A S D R C A A D K R
GTGAGCTCATTTCTTTTGTGACTAGCGAGGCCAGCGATCGATGCGCTGCTGACAAAAGAA
430 440 450 460 470 480

K T I N G E D I L I S L H A L G F E N Y
AGACGATAAACGGGAAGACATTCTCATATCATTGCACGCCTTAGGATTCGAGAACTATG
490 500 510 520 530 540

A E V L K I Y L A K Y R Q Q Q A L K N Q
CAGAGGTGTTGAAAATCTACTTGGCTAAATACAGGCAACAACAGGCGCTGAAGAATCAAC
550 560 570 580 590 600

L M Y E Q D D E E V P *
TAATGTATGAGCAGGACGACGAAGAGGTGCCTTGAGAAGACAAAACCAGGTGGTAGATCG
610 620 630 640 650 660

CAAAAGTTGCTAGCTGTCAGGATGGAATAGCACGGGGCTATTTCTGCTGGTCGTTGGTT
670 680 690 700 710 720

CTCGTGTAATTAATGAATGTAACGATATAGATAATATTTTATTGTTAGTGTGTAATGTAT
730 740 750 760 770 780

TCAATGTAATGTATGGGTGCTTTGTAAAGGTGTATGATGTTTGGCCACCGGAAGG
790 800 810 820 830

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Figure 6: Nucleotide and amino acid sequence of HAP4

TAAAGGAACCGAGAAAAATAAAAAAGGGTCATTATTTATTTGAGCAGATCATTATCAAACG
10 20 30 40 50 60
CATAGGAAGAGAAAAAACACAGTTTTATTTTTTTTCCACACATATTTATTGGTCTCCTAG
70 80 90 100 110 120
TACATCAAAGAGCATTTTAATGGGTTGCTGATTTGTTTTACCTACATTTTCTAGTACAAA
130 140 150 160 170 180
M T A K T F L L Q A S A S
AAAAAAACAAAAAAGAATCATGACCGCAAAGACTTTTCTACTACAGGCCTCCGCTAGTC
190 200 210 220 230 240
R P R S N H F K N E H N N I P L A P V P
GCCCTCGTAGTAACCATTTTAAAAATGAGCATAATAATATTCCATTGGCGCCTGTACCGA
250 260 270 280 290 300
I A P N T N H H N N S S L E F E N D G S
TCGCCCCAAATACCAACCATCATAACAATAGTTCGCTGGAATTGAAAACGATGGCAGTA
310 320 330 340 350 360
K K K K K S S L V V R T S K H W V L P P
AAAAGAAGAAGAAGTCTAGCTTGGTGGTTAGAACTTCAAACATTGGGTTTTGCCCCCAA
370 380 390 400 410 420
R P R P G R R S S S H N T L P A N N T N
GACCAAGACCTGGTAGAAGATCATCTTCTCACAACACTCTACCTGCCAACACACCAATA
430 440 450 460 470 480
N I L N V G P N S R N S S N N N N N N N
ATATTTTAAATGTTGGCCCTAACAGCAGGAACAGTAGTAATAATAATAATAATAACA
490 500 510 520 530 540
I I S N R K Q A S K E K R K I P R H I Q
TCATTTTGAATAGGAAACAAGCTTCCAAAGAAAAGAGGAAAATACCAAGACATATCCAGA
550 560 570 580 590 600
T I D E K L I N D S N Y L A F L K F D D
CAATCGATGAAAAGCTAATAAACGACTCGAATTACCTCGCATTTTTGAAGTTGATGACT
610 620 630 640 650 660
L E N E K F H S S A S S I S S P S Y S S
TGGAATGAAAAGTTTCATTCTTCTGCCTCCTCCATTTCATCTCCATCTTATTCATCTC
670 680 690 700 710 720
P S F S S Y R N R K K S E F M D D E S C
CATCTTTTCAAGTTATAGAAATAGAAAAAATCAGAATTCATGGACGATGAAAGCTGCA
730 740 750 760 770 780
T D V E T I A A H N S L L T K N H H I D
CCGATGTGGAACCATTTGCTGCTCACAACAGTCTGCTAACAAAAACCATCATATAGATT
790 800 810 820 830 840
S S S N V H A P P T K K S K L N D F D L
CTTCTTCAAATGTTACGCACACCCACGAAAAAATCAAAGTTGAACGACTTTGATTTAT
850 860 870 880 890 900
L S L S S T S S S A T P V P Q L T K D L
TGTCCTTATCTTCCACATCTTCATCGGCCACTCCGGTCCCACAGTTGACAAAAGATTGA
910 920 930 940 950 960

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N M N L N F H K I P H K A S F P D S P A
ACATGAACCTAAATTTTCATAAGATCCCTCATAAGGCTTCATTCCCTGATTCTCCAGCAG
970 980 990 1000 1010 1020

D F S P A D S V S L I R N H S L P T N L
ATTTCTCTCCAGCAGATTTCAGTCTCGTTGATTAGAAACCACTCCTTGCCTACTAATTTGC
1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080

Q V K D K I E D L N E I K F F N D F E K
AAGTTAAGGACAAAATTGAGGATTTGAACGAGATTAAATTCCTTAACGATTTTCGAGAAAC
1090 1100 1110 1120 1130 1140

L E F F N K Y A K V N T N N D V N E N N
TTGAGTTTTTCAATAAGTATGCCAAAGTCAACACGAATAACGACGTTAACGAAAATAATG
1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200

D L W N S Y L Q S M D D T T G K N S G N
ATCTCTGGAATTCTTACTTACAGTCTATGGACGATACAACAGGTAAGAACAGTGGCAATT
1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260

Y Q Q V D N D D N M S L L N L P I L E E
ACCAACAAGTGGACAATGACGATAATATGTCTTTATTGAATCTGCCAATTTTGGAGGAAA
1270 1280 1290 1300 1310 1320

T V S S G Q D D K V E P D E E D I W N Y
CCGTATCTTCAGGGCAAGATGATAAGGTTGAGCCAGATGAAGAAGACATTTGGAATTATT
1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380

L P S S S S Q Q E D S S R A L K K N T N
TACCAAGTTCAAGTTCACAACAAGAAGATTCATCACGTGCTTTGAAAAAAATACTAATT
1390 1400 1410 1420 1430 1440

S E K A N I Q A K N D E T Y L F L Q D Q
CTGAGAAGGCGAATCCAAGCAAAGAAGATGAAACCTATCTGTTTCTTCAGGATCAGG
1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500

D E S A D S H H H D E L G S E I T L A D
ATGAAAGCGCTGATTGCGATCACCATGACGAGTTAGGTTTCAGAAATCACTTTGGCTGACA
1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1560

N K F S Y L P P T L E E L M E E Q D C N
ATAAGTTTTCTTATTTGCCCCCAACTCTAGAAGAGTTGATGGAAGAGCAGGACTGTAACA
1570 1580 1590 1600 1610 1620

N G R S F K N F M F S N D T G I D G S A
ATGGCAGATCTTTTAAAATTTTCATGTTTCCAACGATACCGGTATTGACGGTAGTGCCG
1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680

G T D D D Y T K V L K S K K I S T S K S
GTACTGATGACGACTACACCAAAGTTCTGAAATCCAAAAAATTTCTACGTGGAAGTCGA
1690 1700 1710 1720 1730 1740

N A N L Y D L N D N N N D A T A T N E L
ACGCTAACCTTTATGACTTAAACGATAACAACAATGATGCAACTGCCACCAATGAACCTG
1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800

D Q S S F I D D L D E D V D F L K V Q V
ATCAAAGCAGTTTCATCGACGACCTTGACGAAGATGTCGATTTTTTAAAGGTACAAGTAT

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1810 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860
F *
TTTGAATAGGCATGTTGCAATAAAACGAAAACAACATAAAATCACGAAAACAAAATGAT
1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920
ATTATACAATAAAAAATTCTTATTATGGGTAATGATAGTATTCTTCGCCTGCTTAGGCGT
1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980
CCTTTTCCTTCAACAACAAAAATTCCAAAAAAAAAAGTAAAAAACAAAACCTTTGATTG
1990 2000 2010 2020 2030 2040
TTTTTTAATGATGTTAATGATTTTT
2050 2060

10/30

Construction YCplac111::ADH1-HAP4

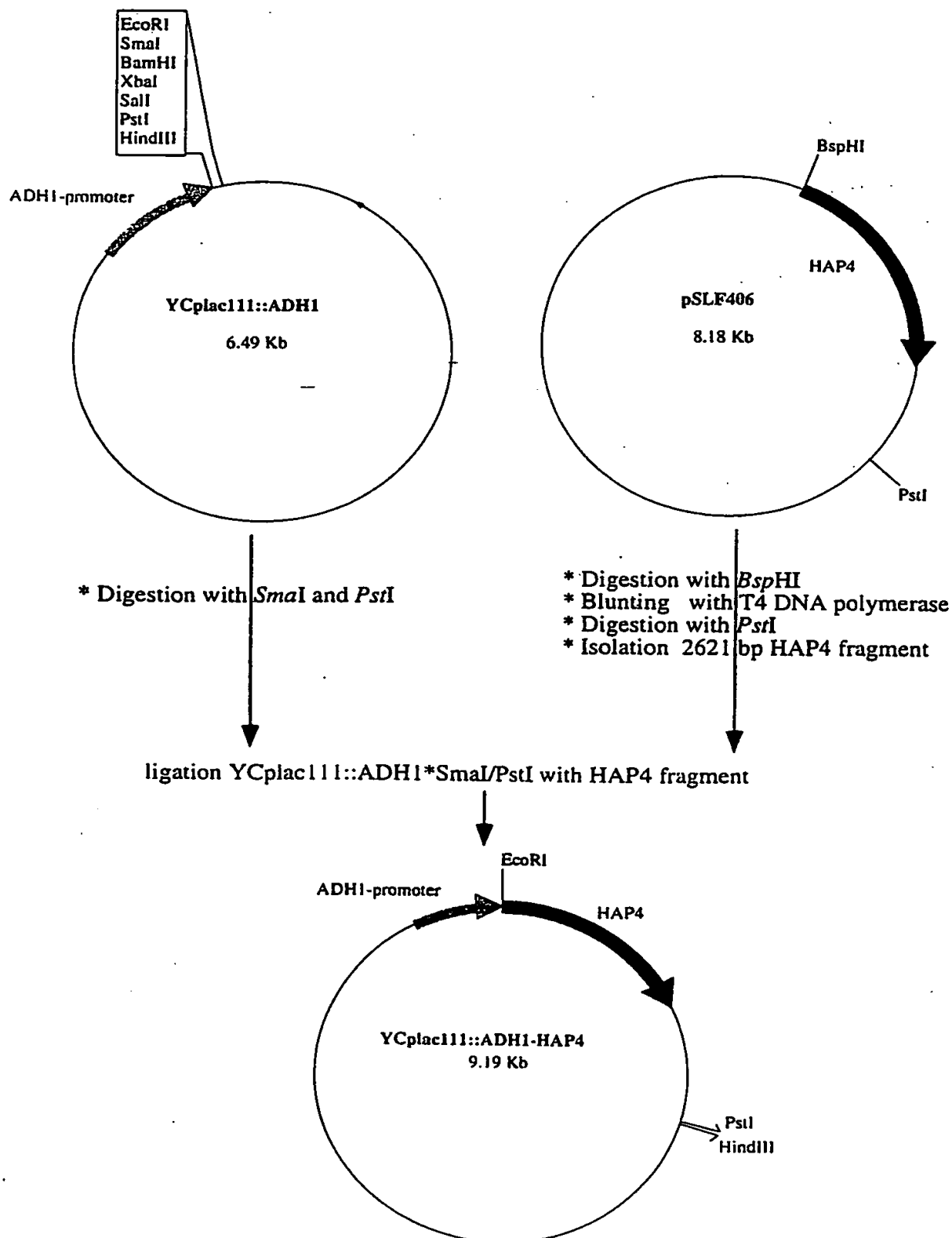


Figure 7

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Figure 8: Nucleotide and amino acid sequence of the ADH1 promoter fused to the coding region of HAP4

atccttttgttgtttccgggtgtacaatatggacttcctcttttctggcaaccaaacc
60 10 20 30 40 50

tacatcgggattcctataataccttcggttggtctccctaacatgtaggtggcggaggga
120 70 80 90 100 110

gatatacaatagaacagataaccagacaagacataatgggctaacaagactacaccaatt
180 130 140 150 160 170

acactgcctcattgatggtggtacataacgaactaatactgtagccctagacttgatagc
240 190 200 210 220 230

catcatcatatcgaagtttcactacccttttccatttgccatctattgaagtaataata
300 250 260 270 280 290

ggcgcattgcaacttcttttcttttttcttttctctctcccccggtgttgtctcacca
360 310 320 330 340 350

tatccgcaatgacaaaaaaaaatgatggaagacactaaaggaaaaaattaacgacaaagac
420 370 380 390 400 410

agcaccaacagatgtcgttggtccagagctgatgaggggtatcttcgaacacacgaaact
480 430 440 450 460 470

ttttccttccttcattcacgcacactactctctaataagcaacgggtatacggccttcctt
540 490 500 510 520 530

ccagttacttgaatttgaaataaaaaaagtttgccgctttgctatcaagtataaatagac
600 550 560 570 580 590

ctgcaattattaatcttttgtttcctcgtcattgttctcgttcctttcttccttgtttc

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660 610 620 630 640 650
tttttctgcacaatatttcaagctataccaagcatacaatcaaggaattcgagctcgccc
670 680 690 700 710
720
M T A K T F L L Q A S A S R P R S N H
F
CATGACCGCAAAGACTTTTCTACTACAGGCCTCCGCTAGTCGCCCTCGTAGTAACCATT
730 740 750 760 770
780
K N E H N N I P L A P V P I A P N T N
H
TAAAAATGAGCATAATAATATTCCATTGGCGCCTGTACCGATCGCCCCAAATACCAACCA
790 800 810 820 830
840
H N N S S L E F E N D G S K K K K K S
S
TCATAACAATAGTTCGCTGGAATTCGAAAACGATGGCAGTAAAAAGAAGAAGAAGTCTAG
850 860 870 880 890
900
L V V R T S K H W V L P P R P R P G R
R
CTTGGTGGTTAGAACTTCAAAACATTGGGTTTTGCCCCCAAGACCAAGACCTGGTAGAAG
910 920 930 940 950
960
S S S H N T L P A N N T N N I L N V G
P
ATCATCTTCTCACAACACTCTACCTGCCAACACCAATAATATTTTAAATGTTGGCCC
970 980 990 1000 1010
1020
N S R N S S N N N N N N N I I S N R K
Q
TAACAGCAGGAACAGTAGTAATAATAATAATAATAACATCATTTTGAATAGGAAACA
1030 1040 1050 1060 1070
1080
A S K E K R K I P R H I Q T I D E K L
I
AGCTTCCAAAGAAAAGAGGAAAATACCAAGACATATCCAGACAATCGATGAAAAGCTAAT
1090 1100 1110 1120 1130
1140

R N D S N Y L A F L K F D D L E N E K F
AAACGACTCGAATTACCTCGCATTTTTGAAGTTCGATGACTTGGAAAATGAAAAGTTTCG
1200 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190

R S S A S S I S S P S Y S S P S F S S Y
TTCTTCTGCCTCCTCCATTTCATCTCCATCTTATTCATCTCCATCTTTTCAAGTTATAG
1260 1210 1220 1230 1240 1250

A N R K K S E F M D D E S C T D V E T I
AAATAGAAAAAATCAGAATTCATGGACGATGAAAGCTGCACCGATGTGGAAACCATTGC
1320 1270 1280 1290 1300 1310

A A H N S L L T K N H H I D S S S N V H
TGCTCACAACAGTCTGCTAACAAAAACCATCATATAGATTCTTCTTCAAATGTTACGC
1380 1330 1340 1350 1360 1370

S P P T K K S K L N D F D L L S L S S T
ACCACCCACGAAAAAATCAAAGTTGAACGACTTTGATTATTGTCCTTATCTTCCACATC
1440 1390 1400 1410 1420 1430

H S S A T P V P Q L T K D L N M N L N F
TTCATCGGCCACTCCGGTCCCACAGTTGACAAAAGATTTGAACATGAACCTAAATTTTCA
1500 1450 1460 1470 1480 1490

S K I P H K A S F P D S P A D F S P A D
TAAGATCCCTCATAAGGCTTCATTCCCTGATTCTCCAGCAGATTCTCTCCAGCAGATTCT
1560 1510 1520 1530 1540 1550

E V S L I R N H S L P T N L Q V K D K I
AGTCTCGTTGATTAGAAACCACTCCTTGCCTACTAATTTGCAAGTTAAGGACAAAATTGA
1620 1570 1580 1590 1600 1610

Y D L N E I K F F N D F E K L E F F N K

14/30

GGATTTGAACGAGATTAAATTCTTTAACGATTTCGAGAACTTGAGTTTTCAATAAGTA
1630 1640 1650 1660 1670

1680

A K V N T N N D V N E N N D L W N S Y
L

TGCCAAAGTCAACACGAATAACGACGTTAACGAAAATAATGATCTCTGGAATTCTTACTT
1690 1700 1710 1720 1730

1740

Q S M D D T T G K N S G N Y Q Q V D N
D

ACAGTCTATGGACGATACAACAGGTAAGAACAGTGGCAATTACCAACAAGTGGACAATGA
1750 1760 1770 1780 1790

1800

D N M S L L N L P I L E E T V S S G Q
D

CGATAATATGTCTTTATTGAATCTGCCAATTTTGGAGGAAACCGTATCTTCAGGGCAAGA
1810 1820 1830 1840 1850

1860

D K V E P D E E D I W N Y L P S S S S
Q

TGATAAGGTTGAGCCAGATGAAGAAGACATTTGGAATTATTTACCAAGTTCAAGTTCACA
1870 1880 1890 1900 1910

1920

Q E D S S R A L K K N T N S E K A N I
Q

ACAAGAAGATTCATCACGTGCTTTGAAAAAAATACTAATTCTGAGAAGGCGAACATCCA
1930 1940 1950 1960 1970

1980

A K N D E T Y L F L Q D Q D E S A D S
H

AGCAAAGAACGATGAAACCTATCTGTTTCTTCAGGATCAGGATGAAAGCGCTGATTGCA
1990 2000 2010 2020 2030

2040

H H D E L G S E I T L A D N K F S Y L
P

TCACCATGACGAGTTAGGTTGAGAAATCACTTTGGCTGACAATAAGTTTTCTTATTTGCC
2050 2060 2070 2080 2090

2100

P T L E E L M E E Q D C N N G R S F K
N

CCCAACTCTAGAAGAGTTGATGGAAGAGCAGGACTGTAACAATGGCAGATCTTTTAAAAA

15/30

2160 2110 2120 2130 2140 2150

T F M F S N D T G I D G S A G T D D D Y

TTTCATGTTTTCCAACGATACCGGTATTGACGGTAGTGCCGGTACTGATGACGACTACAC

2220 2170 2180 2190 2200 2210

L K V L K S K K I S T S K S N A N L Y D

CAAAGTTCTGAAATCCAAAAAATTTCTACGTCGAAGTCGAACGCTAACCTTTATGACTT

2280 2230 2240 2250 2260 2270

D N D N N N D A T A T N E L D Q S S F I

AAACGATAACAACAATGATGCAACTGCCACCAATGAACTTGATCAAAGCAGTTTCATCGA

2340 2290 2300 2310 2320 2330

D L D E D V D F L K V Q V F *

CGACCTTGACGAAGATGTCGATTTTTTAAAGGTACAAGTATTTTAAGgggatcc

2350 2360 2370 2380 2390

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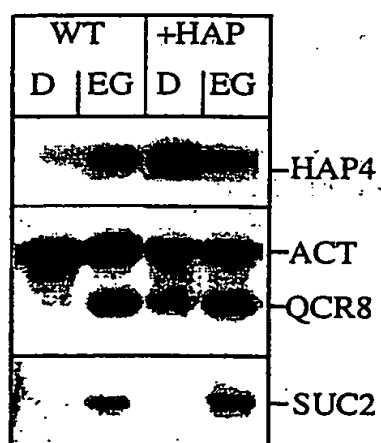


Figure 9

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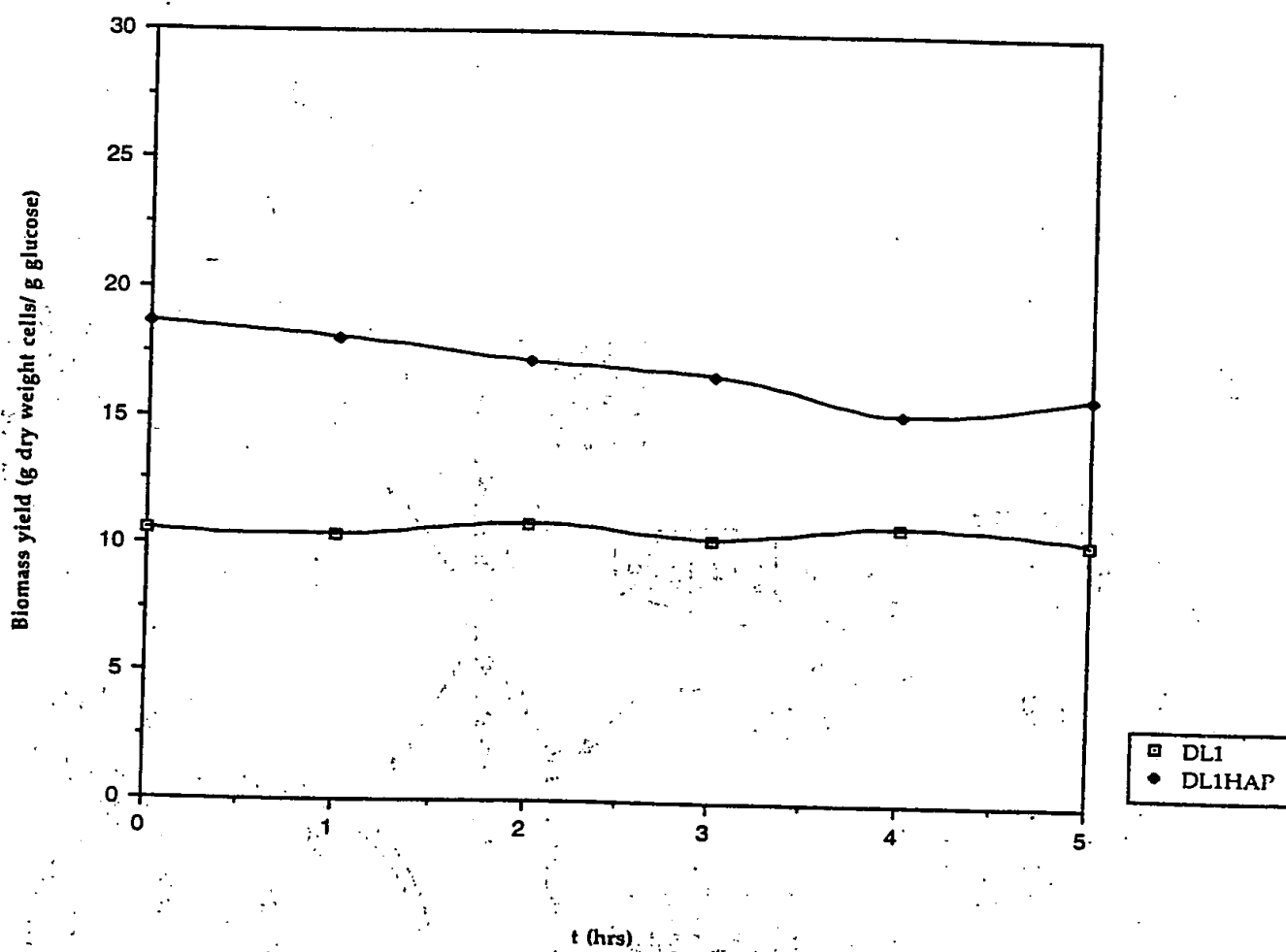


Figure 10

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Construction p425-GPDHAP4 and p425-TEFHAP4

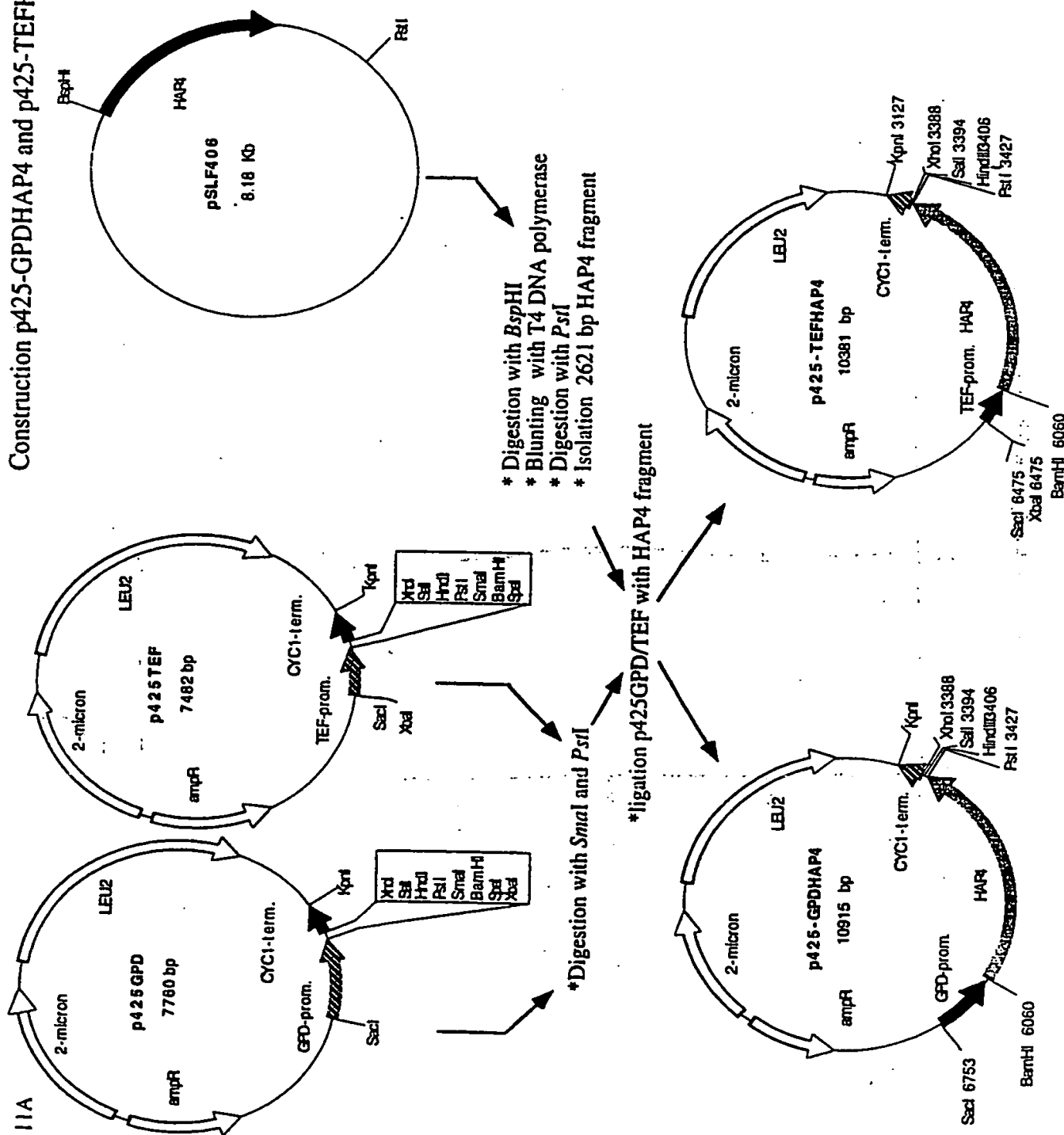
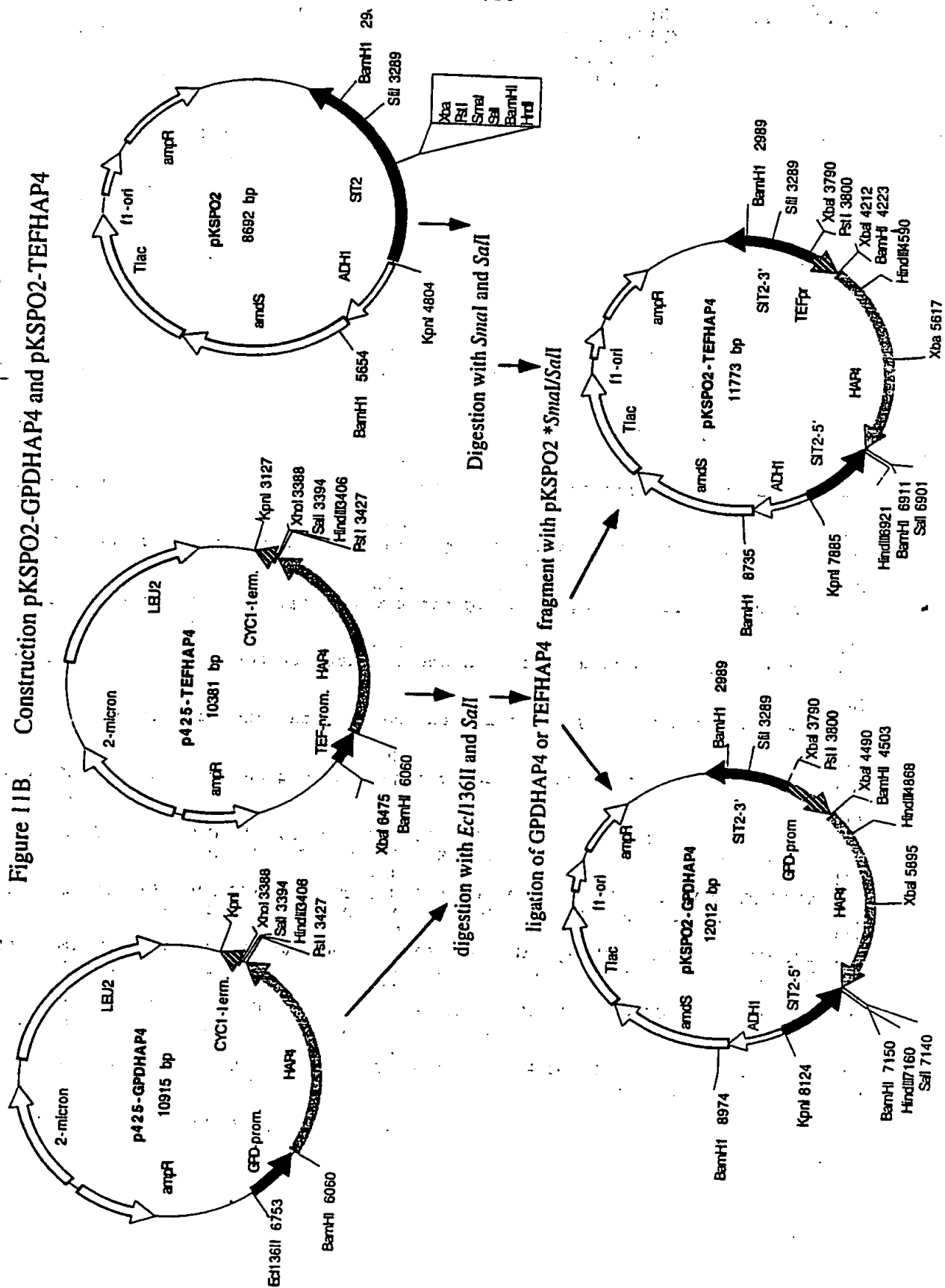


Figure 11A

Figure 11B. Construction pKSP02-GPDHAP4 and pKSP02-TEFHAP4



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Figure 12A. Nucleotide and amino acid sequence of the 680 bp GPD1 promoter fused to the HAP4 coding region, as cloned in pKSPO2 and integrated in the yeast genome

```

1          31
gag ctc tgg ggt ttg agc aag tct aag ttt acg tag cat aaa aat tct cgg att gcg tca

61          91
aat aat aaa aaa agt aac ccc act tct act tct aca tcg gaa aaa cat tcc att cac ata

121         151
tcg tct ttg gcc tat ctt gtt ttg tcc tcg gta gat cag gtc agt aca aac gca aca cga

181         211
aag aac aaa aaa aga aga aaa cag aag gcc aag aca ggg tca atg aga ctg ttg tcc tcc

241         271
tac tgt ccc tat gtc tct ggc cga tca cgc gcc att gtc cct cag aaa caa atc aaa cac

301         331
cca cac ccc ggg cac cca aag tcc cca ccc aca cca cca ata cgt aaa cgg ggc gcc ccc

361         391
tgc agg ccc tcc tgc gcg cgg cct ccc gcc ttg ctt ctc tcc cct tcc ttt tct ttt tcc

421         451
agt ttt ccc tat ttt gtc cct ttt tcc gca caa caa gta tca gaa tgg gtt cat caa atc

481         511
tat cca acc taa ttc gca cgt aga ctg gct tgg tat tgg cag ttt cgt agt tat ata tat

541         571
act acc atg agt gaa act gtt acg tta cct taa att ctt tct ccc ttt aat ttt ctt tta

601         631
tct tac tct cct aca taa gac atc aag aaa caa ttg tat att gta cac ccc ccc cct cca

661         691
caa aca caa ata ttg ata ata taa agt cta gaa cta gtg gat ccc ccc ATG ACC GCA AAG
                                     M   T   A   K

721         751
ACT TTT CTA CTA CAG GCC TCC GCT AGT CGC CCT CGT AGT AAC CAT TTT AAA AAT GAG CAT
T   F   L   L   Q   A   S   A   S   R   P   R   S   N   H   F   K   N   E   H

781         811
AAT AAT ATT CCA TTG GCG CCT GTA CCG ATC GCC CCA AAT ACC AAC CAT CAT AAC AAT AGT
N   N   I   P   L   A   P   V   P   I   A   P   N   T   N   H   H   N   N   S

841         871
TCG CTG GAA TTC GAA AAC GAT GGC AGT AAA AAG AAG AAG AAG TCT AGC TTG GTG GTT AGA
S   L   E   F   E   N   D   G   S   K   K   K   K   K   S   S   L   V   V   R

901         931
ACT TCA AAA CAT TGG GTT TTG CCC CCA AGA CCA AGA CCT GGT AGA AGA TCA TCT TCT CAC
T   S   K   H   W   V   L   P   P   R   P   R   P   G   R   R   S   S   S   H

961         991
AAC ACT CTA CCT GCC AAC AAC ACC AAT AAT ATT TTA AAT GTT GGC CCT AAC AGC AGG AAC
N   T   L   P   A   N   N   T   N   N   I   L   N   V   G   P   N   S   R   N

1021        1051
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```

S S N N N N N N N I I S N R K Q A S K E
1081 1111
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K R K I P R H I Q T I D E K L I N D S N
1141 1171
TAC CTC GCA TTT TTG AAG TTC GAT GAC TTG GAA AAT GAA AAG TTT CAT TCT TCT GCC TCC
Y L A F L K F D D L E N E K F H S S A S
1201 1231
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1261 1291
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S E F M D D E S C T D V E T I A A H N S
1321 1351
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L L T K N H H I D S S S N V H A P P T K
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AAA TCA AAG TTG AAC GAC TTT GAT TTA TTG TCC TTA TCT TCC ACA TCT TCA TCG GCC ACT
K S K L N D F D L L S L S S T S S S A T
1441 1471
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P V P Q L T K D L N M N L N F H K I P H
1501 1531
AAG GCT TCA TTC CCT GAT TCT CCA GCA GAT TTC TCT CCA GCA GAT TCA GTC TCG TTG ATT
K A S F P D S P A D F S P A D S V S L I
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T N N D V N E N N D L W N S Y L Q S M D
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D T T G K N S G N Y Q Q V D N D D N M S
1801 1831
TTA TTG AAT CTG CCA ATT TTG GAG GAA ACC GTA TCT TCA GGG CAA GAT GAT AAG GTT GAG
L L N L P I L E E T V S S G Q D D K V E
1861 1891
CCA GAT GAA GAA GAC ATT TGG AAT TAT TTA CCA AGT TCA AGT TCA CAA CAA GAA GAT TCA
P D E E D I W N Y L P S S S S Q Q E D S
1921 1951
TCA CGT GCT TTG AAA AAA AAT ACT AAT TCT GAG AAG GCG AAC ATC CAA GCA AAG AAC GAT
S R A L K K N T N S E K A N I Q A K N D
1981 2011
GAA ACC TAT CTG TTT CTT CAG GAT CAG GAT GAA AGC GCT GAT TCG CAT CAC CAT GAC GAG
E T Y L F L Q D Q D E S A D S H H H D E
2041 2071
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L G S E I T L A D N K F S Y L P P T L E
2101 2131
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E L M E E Q D C N N G R S F K N F M F S
2161 2191
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2221 2251

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 S K K I S T S K S N A N L Y D L N D N N
 2281 2311
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 2341 2371
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 D V D F L K V Q V F *

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 caa cta aaa atc acg aaa aca aaa tga tat tat aca ata aaa aat tct tat tat ggg taa

 2461 2491
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 2521 2551
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 2581 261
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 2641 2671
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 2701 2731
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 2761 2791
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 2821 2851
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 2881 2911
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 2941 2971
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 3001 3031
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 3061 3091
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 3121 3151
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 3181 3211
 att agt atc ttt gac atg aat ttg tcg cct ata aag cct ata tac atg aca ttc aca aat

 3241 3271
 aat att gat gtt aac aat gat aac tcc aag aca att tct aat gaa tct tct cca cga aaa

 3301 3331
 act att ctg cta aaa tcg tcg cct gca gga att cga tat caa gct tat cga tac cgt cga

Figure 12B. Nucleotide and amino acid sequence of the 402 bp TEF2 promoter fused to the HAP4 coding region, as cloned in pKSP02 and integrated in the yeast genome

```

2          32
agc tca atg ttt cta ctc ctt ttt tac tct tcc aga ttt tct cgg act ccg cgc atc gcc
62          92
gta cca ctt caa aac acc caa gca cag cat act aaa ttt ccc ctc ttt ctt cct cta ggg
122        152
tgt cgt taa tta ccc gta cta aag gtt tgg aaa aga aaa aag aga ccg cct cgt ttc ttt
182        212
ttc ttc gtc gaa aaa ggc aat aaa aat ttt tat cac gtt tct ttt tct tga aaa ttt ttt
242        272
ttt ttg att ttt ttc tct ttc gat gac ctc cca ttg ata ttt aag tta ata aac ggt ctt
302        332
caa ttt ctc aag ttt cag ttt cat ttt tct tgt tct att aca act ttt ttt act tct tgc
362        392
tca tta gaa aga aag cat agc aat cta atc taa gtt tta att aca aat cta gaa cta gtg
422        452
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          M T A K T F L L Q A S A S R P R S
482        512
AAC CAT TTT AAA AAT GAG CAT AAT AAT ATT CCA TTG GCG CCT GTA CCG ATC GCC CCA AAT
N H F K N E H N N I P L A P V P I A P N
542        572
ACC AAC CAT CAT AAC AAT AGT TCG CTG GAA TTC GAA AAC GAT GGC AGT AAA AAG AAG AAG
T N H H N N S S L E F E N D G S K K K K
602        632
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662        692
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G R R S S S H N T L P A N N T N N I L N
722        752
GTT GGC CCT AAC AGC AGG AAC AGT AGT AAT AAT AAT AAT AAT AAC ATC ATT TCG AAT
V G P N S R N S S N N N N N N I I S N
782        812
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R K Q A S K E K R K I P R H I Q T I D E
842        872
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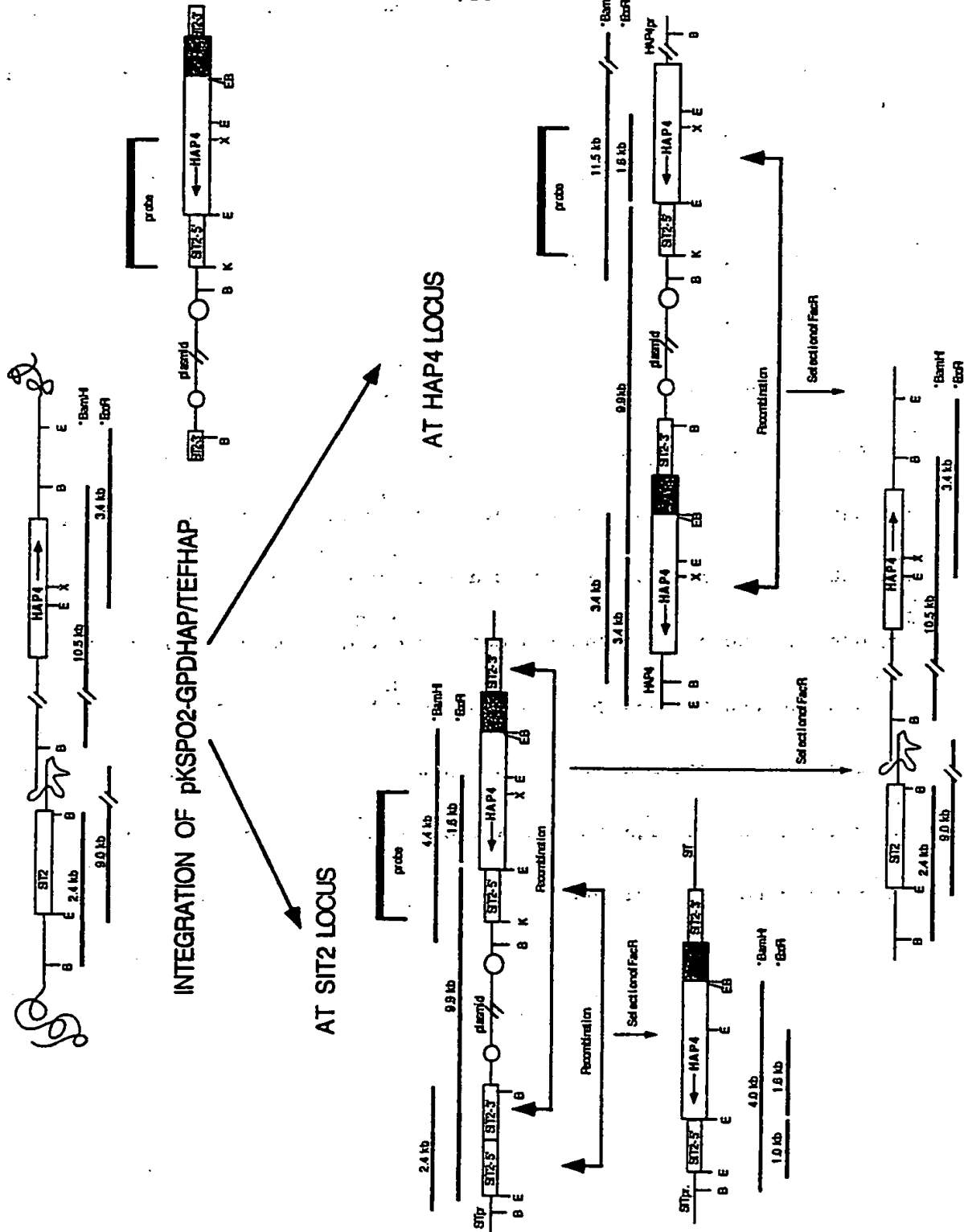
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V H A P P T K K S K L N D F D L L S L S
1142
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S T S S S A T P V P Q L T K D L N M N L
1202/401
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1262
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A D S V S L I R N H S L P T N L Q V K D
1322
AAA ATT GAG GAT TTG AAC GAG ATT AAA TTC
K I E D L N E I K F F N D F E K L E F F
1382
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1442
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S Y L Q S M D D T T G K N S G N Y Q Q V
1502
GAC AAT GAC GAT AAT ATG TCT TTA TTG AAT
D N D D N M S L L N L P I L E E T V S S
1562
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G Q D D K V E P D E E D I W N Y L P S S
1622
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S S Q Q E D S S R A L K K N T N S E K A
1682
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N I Q A K N D E T Y L F L Q D Q D E S A
1742/581
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1802
TAT TTG CCC CCA ACT CTA GAA GAG TTG ATG
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1862
TTT AAA AAT TTC ATG TTT TCC AAC GAT ACC
F K N F M F S N D T G I D G S A G T D D
1922
GAC TAC ACC AAA GTT CTG AAA TCC AAA AAA
D Y T K V L K S K K I S T S K S N A N L
1982
TAT GAC TTA AAC GAT AAC AAC AAT GAT GCA
Y D L N D N N N D A T A T N E L D Q S S
2042
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F I D D L D E D V D F L K V Q V F
2102
cat gtt gca ata aaa cga aaa caa cta aaa
atc acg aaa aca aaa tga tat tat aca ata
2162
aaa aat tct tat tat ggg taa tga tag tat
2192
tct tcg cct gct tag gcg tcc ttt tcc ttc

25/30

2222	2252
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2282	2312
tgt taa tga ttt ttt ttt tct ttc ttt atc	ata aaa aaa aag tta aaa tga aaa aca aat
2342	2372
atg ggt ctg gaa ggc cat tat ttt ttt ttt	att tat ata ccg ttt ctg gta ctt agt tat
2402	2432
tta ttc tca tac ata cac tat att caa att	acc taa gag cat ttt cac ata tcc gtt tac
2462	2492
ttt cat ttt ttt ttt ttt tgc ttc ctt ttt	aca tat ctt ccg tat atc aca tca cgt tta
2522	2552
cgc gta tgg tga aac acg tca aga gaa aaa	tga taa aat caa att ttg att tac atc agg
2582	2612
ctc cac agg aca ggg aaa tct atc tag tga	ggc gat aac tgt agt tgc atg tac tca ttt
2642	2672
gaa ctg gac aaa ttg aaa att gag ctg aaa	aca tgg gag cat gat ttc att gat aaa aat
2702	2732
aaa agg gaa ccc aca agg gat gac atc aag	agc ctg cgg act gtt cgg cag atg tat aaa
2762	2792/931
caa tat tcc aca ctg aag aag aaa caa tct	ttg caa cga caa aaa gtt gac act caa gag
2822	2852
tcg gtt gaa ctc ccg gca cat aaa aaa gac	cac gac gaa gtc gta gag ata ggc cct act
2882	2912
ccc caa gtt tac ggt aag gcg att agt atc	ttt gac atg aat ttg tcg cct ata aag cct
2942	2972
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3002	3032
aat gaa tct tct cca cga aaa act att ctc	cta aaa tcg tcg cct gca gga att cga tat
3062	
caa gct tat cga tac cgt cga	

26/30

Figure 13



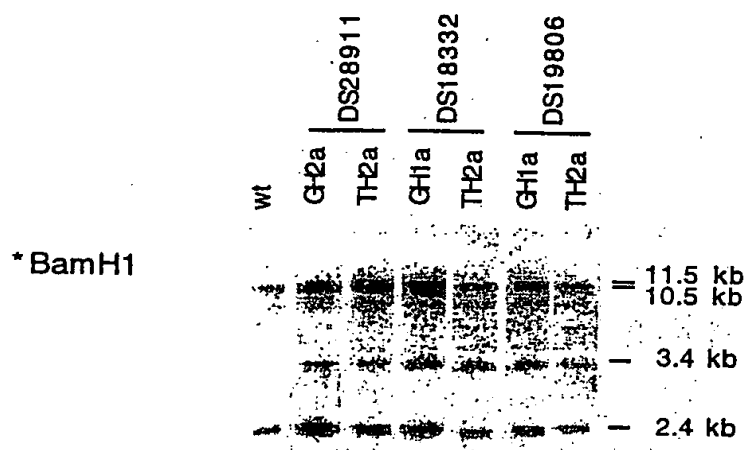


Figure 14

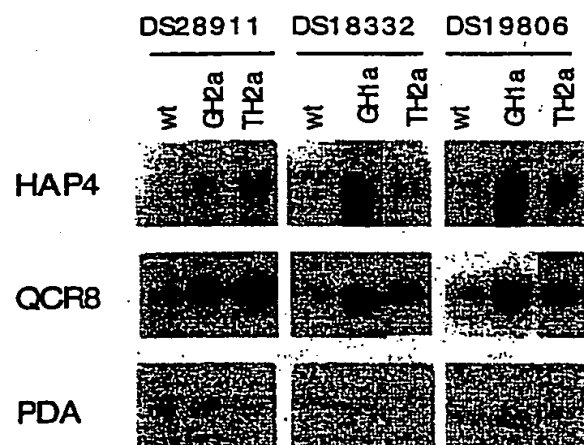


Figure 15

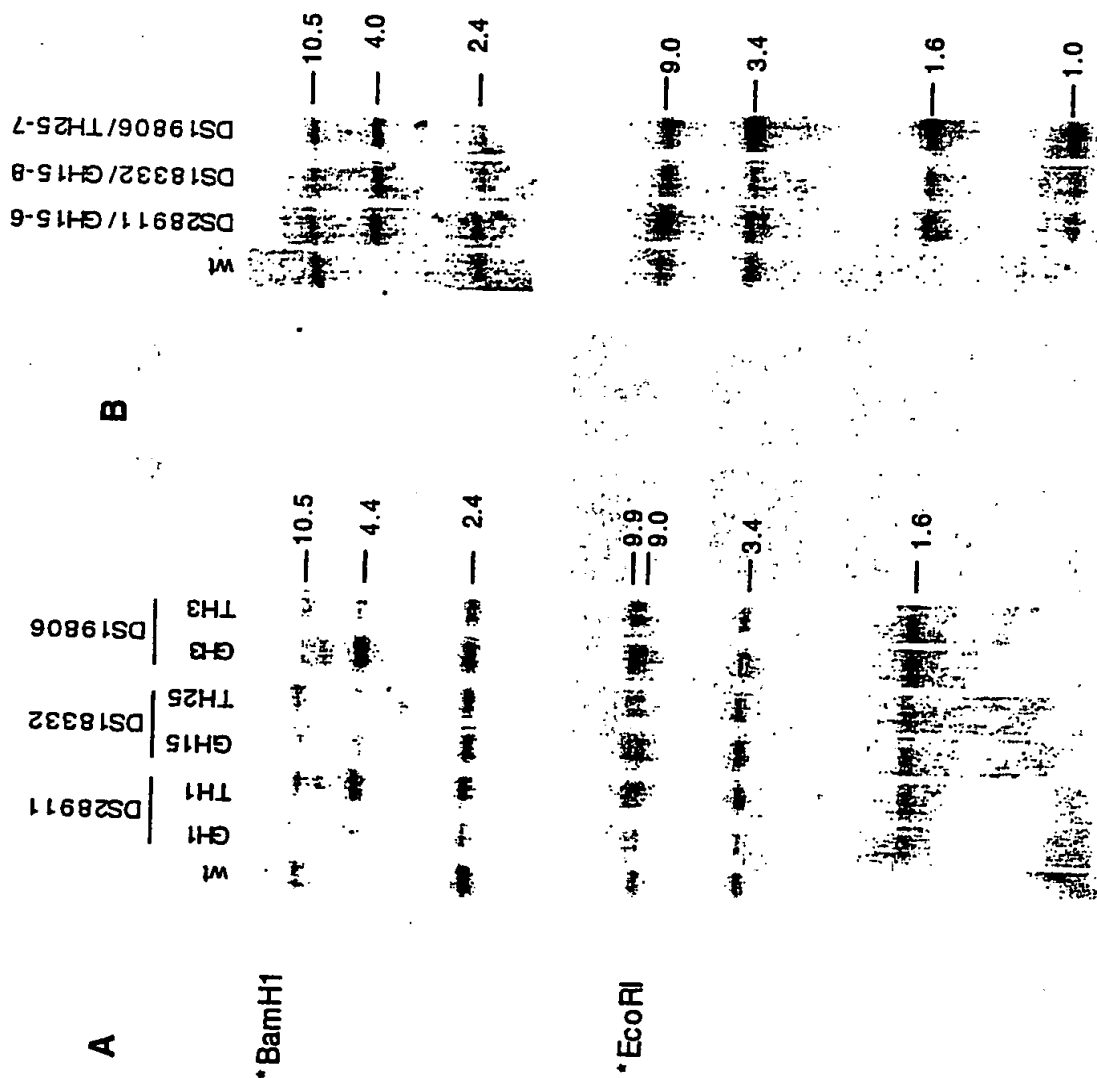
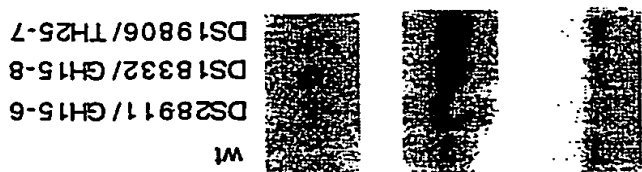
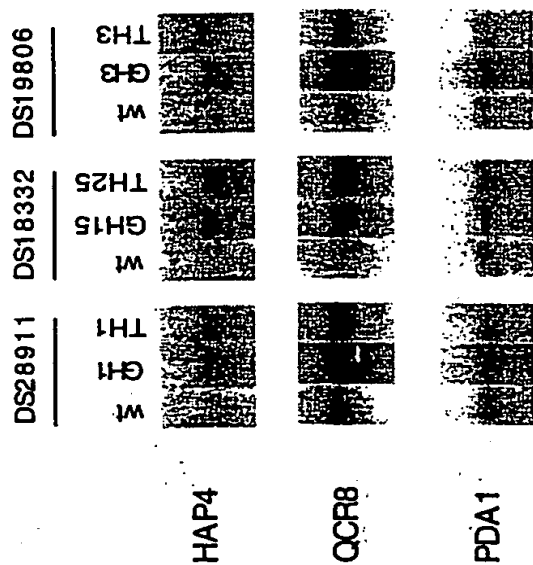


Figure 16



B



A

Figure 17

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/NL 97/00688

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C12N15/81 C07K14/395 C12N1/16

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07K C12N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	MULDER, WIETSE ET AL: "Distinct transcriptional regulation of a gene coding for a mitochondrial protein in the yeasts <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i> and <i>Kluyveromyces lactis</i> despite similar promoter structures" MOL. MICROBIOL. (1995), 17(5), 813-24 CODEN: MOMIEE; ISSN: 0950-382X, 1995, XP000671075 see the whole document	1-14, 16-24
Y		15

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
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- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 May 1998

Date of mailing of the international search report

20/05/1998

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

H1x, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inte Jonal Application No
PCT/NL 97/00688

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	N. BONNEFOY ET AL.: "Yeast proteins can activate expression through regulatory sequences of the amdS gene of Aspergillus nidulans." MOL GEN GENET, vol. 246, 1995, pages 223-227, XP000670345	19-24
Y	see the whole document	1-18
X	J. DE WINDE ET AL.: "Regulation of mitochondrial biogenesis in Saccharomyces cerevisiae in the promoter of the QCR8 gene" EUR. J. BIOCHEM., vol. 233, 1995, pages 200-208, XP000671195	19-24
Y	see the whole document	1-18
X	BOWMAN S B ET AL: "POSITIVE REGULATION OF THE LPD1 GENE OF SACCHAROMYCES -CEREVISIAE BY THE HAP2-HAP3- HAP4 ACTIVATION SYSTEM." MOL GEN GENET 231 (2). 1992. 296-303. CODEN: MGGEAE ISSN: 0026-8925, XP000671042	19-24
Y	see the whole document	1-18
X	ROSENKRANTZ M ET AL: "The HAP2,3,4 transcriptional activator is required for derepression of the yeast citrate synthase gene, CIT1." MOLECULAR MICROBIOLOGY 13 (1). 1994. 119-131. ISSN: 0950-382X, XP000671072	19-24
Y	see the whole document	1-18
Y	FORSBURG S L ET AL: "IDENTIFICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION OF HAP4 A THIRD COMPONENT OF THE CCAAT-BOUND HAP2-HAP3 HETEROMER." GENES DEV 3 (8). 1989. 1166-1178. CODEN: GEDEEP ISSN: 0890-9369, XP000671039 cited in the application see the whole document	15
A	COSCHIGANO P W ET AL: "PHYSIOLOGICAL AND GENETIC ANALYSIS OF THE CARBON REGULATION OF THE NAD-DEPENDENT GLUTAMATE DEHYDROGENASE OF SACCHAROMYCES -CEREVISIAE." MOL CELL BIOL 11 (9). 1991. 4455-4465. CODEN: MCEBD4 ISSN: 0270-7306, XP000671043 see the whole document	

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Application No

PCT/NL 97/00688

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>DANG V-D ET AL: "Cloning of the ASN1 and ASN2 genes encoding asparagine synthetases in <i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>: Differential regulation by the CCAAT-box-binding factor."</p> <p>MOLECULAR MICROBIOLOGY 22 (4). 1996. 681-692. ISSN: 0950-382X, XP000671076 see the whole document</p> <p>-----</p>	